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ANNUAL REPORTS ON THE STATE OF THE COLONIES 1856-57

Colonies General

8

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Contents

IUP Page Number

For ease of reference IUP editors have assigned a continuous pagination which appears on the top outer margin of each page.

State of the Colonies
Annual Reports for the Year 1854
1856 [2050] Vol XLII 9

State of the Colonies
Annual Reports for the Year 1855
1857 [2198] Vol X Sess 1 343

2056251

THE

REPORTS

Made for the Year 1854 *to the Secretary of State having the Department of the Colonies; in continuation of the Reports annually made by the Governors of the British Colonies, with a view to exhibit generally*

THE PAST AND PRESENT STATE

OF

HER MAJESTY'S COLONIAL POSSESSIONS.

TRANSMITTED WITH THE BLUE BOOKS
For the Year 1854.

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty,
March 1856.

LONDON:
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1856.

SCHEDULE.

PART I.—NORTH AMERICAN COLONIES, 1854.

Place.	Name and Date.	SUBJECT.	Page.
1. CANADA - -	Governor-General Sir E. Head, Bart., December 15, 1855. (No. 154.)	Prosperous Condition of the Province—and general Contentment and Loyalty of the Population—Governor's recent Visit to the Eastern Districts - - -	1
		Abundant Harvest—State of the Timber Trade—Tabular Returns 1853 to 1855—Shipping—Statement of Arrivals and Tonnage 1854 and 1855—Commercial Prospects with France and United States -	
		Railways in existence and in progress—Traffic and Transit Trade.	
		Emigration and Returns for the Years 1853, 1854, and 1855 - - - -	4
		Operation of the Reciprocity Treaty with the United States - - - -	4
		Statement of Quantity and Value of Articles declared Free by the Reciprocity Treaty, exported from Canada to the United States, during the Years 1850, 1851, 1852, 1853, 1854, and 1855 - - - -	5
		Statement of Quantity and Value of Imports and Exports of Articles declared Free by the Reciprocity Treaty during the Half Year ending 5th July 1855 - -	6
		Imports—Statement of the Value of Free Goods imported—Half Year ending 5th July 1855 compared with the corresponding period of 1854, during which some of these Articles were chargeable with Duty, and showing the Rate of Duty charged thereon, also the Amount of Duty collected on Articles made Free by Reciprocity Treaty.	
		Present State of the Fishery Question—	
		Remarks and Proposals relative to the Charges for the Indian Department of Canada.	
NOVA SCOTIA - - - -		[The Customary Annual Report for 1854 has not been received from Nova Scotia.]	
2. NEW BRUNSWICK.	The Honourable J. H. T. Manners Sutton, November 30, 1855. (No. 39.)	Statement of the general Course of Events in the Province during the Year 1854—Satisfactory Condition of the Public Revenue—Disappointment experienced in the Commercial Prospects of the Year—Effects of the Visitation of Cholera—Deficiency in the Agricultural produce of the Year - - - - -	10
		Remarks on the Public Debt of the Province.	
		Progress of the Public Works.	
		Legislation for the Year 1854.	
		Commission of Inquiry into State of King's College.	

PART I.—NORTH AMERICAN COLONIES—*continued*.

Place.	Name and Date.	SUBJECT.	Page.
3. NEWFOUNDLAND.	Governor Hamilton, April 26, 1855. (No. 157.)	State of the Revenue of Newfoundland — Exports and Imports—Decreased Revenue consequent on the effects of the Reciprocity Treaty with the United States—Visitation of Cholera in the Autumn—Progress of the New York, Newfoundland, and London Electric Telegraph Company—Change in Form of Government, and Establishment of System of "Responsible" Government —Necessity for repressing the growth of Voluntary Pauperism - -	12
4. PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND.	Lieut.-Gov. Daly, October 27, 1855. (No. 64.)	General Prosperity of Prince Edward Island —Progressive Improvement of the Revenue —Comparative Statement of Revenue and Expenditure 1852 to 1854—Increase of Ship Building in 1854—Statement of Ships built 1852, 1853, 1854—Improvement of Agricultural Operations—Stimulus given by the recent Reciprocity Treaty—Emigration—System of Land Tenancy—Operation of the Land Purchase Bill—Satisfactory Progress of System of Common School Education—Military arrangements consequent on withdrawal of the Regular Troops—Population—Political Condition of the Colony—System of "Responsible Government," &c. - - -	14
5. BERMUDA -	Governor Murray, June 20, 1855. (No. 55.)	Remarks on the general circumstances of the Bermudas as regards Cultivation of the Soil, Ship Building, &c.—Great increase in the Cost of the Necessaries of Life—Report relative to the Government House - - - -	17

PART II.—WEST INDIES AND MAURITIUS.

6. JAMAICA -	Governor Sir H. Barkly, May 21, 1855. (No. 59.)	Statement of Views on the Condition of Jamaica, with reference to recently published Account of Governor's Tour through the Island—Review of the State of Revenue and Expenditure, and of Financial Prospects—Legislation - -	20
		Civil Establishment—Changes in Official Appointments—Executive Committee—Imperial Customs—Stipendiary Justices—Clergy, &c.—Remarks on the Grant of Leave of Absence to Clergy.	
		Progress of Population—Necessity for a new Census—State of Education—Criminal Statistics—Gaols and Prisoners—Diminution of Crime—Tabular Returns relative to Crime, Prisoners, &c.—Charitable Institutions.	
		Commercial Affairs—Corn Exchange, &c.—Island Paper Currency—Issues of the Colonial and Jamaica Banks—Comparative Statement of Imports and Exports, 1852, 1853, and 1854—The Diminution of Sugar Cultivation may probably be mitigated by the development of other Resources of the Island—Manufactures of the Plantain Fibre—Mining Adventure, &c.	
		Future Prospects of Jamaica.	

PART II.—WEST INDIES AND MAURITIUS—*continued.*

Place.	Name and Date.	SUBJECT.	Page.
7. JAMAICA -	Governor Sir H. Barkly, August 6, 1855. (No. 84.)	Reporting a more cheering view of the Agricultural Prospects of the Island—Comparative Returns of the staple Articles of Export, for the Quarters ended 5th January, April, and July, 1854 and 1855 -	29
8. HONDURAS -	Governor Sir H. Barkly, July 5, 1855. (No. 21.)	Financial Position of Honduras—Taxes and Duties—Revenue and Expenditure—The Trade of Belize rapidly extending, from its becoming an Entrepôt for the Produce of the neighbouring States of Central America - - - - -	31
		Report on the Northern District of the Settlement and its capabilities for the cultivation of Tropical Produce—Extent of Manufacture of Sugar, &c.—Social Condition of the Inhabitants, &c.	
		Progress of Public Works.	
		Legislation—Operation of the New Constitution Law—General Proceedings of the Council and Assembly.	
		Civil Establishment—Statement of the general Arrangement of Departments—Necessity for an appointment of an Attorney General—Future proposals.	
		Educational Arrangements reported on.	
		Imports and Exports, their value greatly increasing.	
		State of Crime, Gaols and Prisoners, &c.	
BAY ISLANDS -	- - -	[The usual Annual Report for 1854 has not been received for Bay Islands.]	
9. BAHAMAS -	Governor Sir A. Bannerman, May 11, 1855. (No. 27.)	Financial Condition of the Bahama Islands—Revenue and Expenditure—Causes of Decrease in Revenue explained—Imports and Exports—Diminution in value of Exports—State of Repair of the Government House—Legislation - - -	38
TURKS ISLANDS -	- - -	[The usual Annual Report for 1854 has not been received for Turks Islands.]	
10. TRINIDAD -	Governor Elliot, June 1, 1855. (No. 50.)	Satisfactory Financial Condition of Trinidad—Excess of Revenue over Expenditure—Reduction in the fixed Expenditure of the Island—Exports during the years 1852 1853, and 1854—Decrease of Sugar Crop—State of the Planting Interest—Proposal for permission to refine Sugars in bond. -	41
		Success of recent modifications in the modes of managing the local concerns and roads of the Colony—Tabular Statement of the amount of local Taxation.	
		Cholera—Effects of recent Cholera Visitation.	
		Education—Remarks on the prospects of Education in the Colony.	
		Immigration—Condition, &c. of the Chinese and Coolie Immigrants.	
		Timber—Steps taken for working the valuable Mora Forests.	
		Gaols, Crime, &c.—Report on Prison Accommodation and Means and Proposals for employing Prisoners—Proposed establishment of a Corrective Industrial Juvenile Establishment.	
		Mineral Resources—Authority required for a scientific investigation into the Mineralogical Resources of the Island.	

PART II.—WEST INDIES AND MAURITIUS—*continued.*

Place.	Name and Date.	SUBJECT.	Page.
11. BRITISH GUIANA.	Governor Wodehouse, September 7, 1855. (No. 125.)	State of the Finances of British Guiana—Remarks on the Revenue and Expenditure of the past year - - - - - -	45
		Public Works—Legislation—Review of the Legislative Enactments of the past year.	
12. BARBADOS -	Governor-General Sir W. M. G. Colebrooke, June 9, 1855. (No. 46.)	State of the Finances—Public Works—Gaol—Waterworks and Harbour Light—Military Expenses—Civil Establishment -	47
		Population—Condition of the Peasantry—Political Franchises—Municipal Incorporation.	
		Agriculture and Commerce, increased Value of Exports—Prospects of Trade with the British North American Colonies.	
		Criminal Statistics—State of Gaols and Prisons—Charitable Institutions—Arrangements respecting the Colonial and proposed Seamen's Hospital.	
		Education, prospects of Education, and state of Educational Institutions.	
		Tabular Statements enclosed in the above Report:—	51
		Abstract Returns of Revenue and Expenditure, 1854, under various Heads.	
		Tabular Returns of Population, Lands, Coins, and Currency, Churches and Schools, Shipping, Criminal Statistics, &c.	
		Abstract Returns of Imports and Exports, 1853-4—Value in Sterling.	
		Suggestions relative to Water Supply for Bridge Town, Barbadoes—General Report on the Condition of Bridge Town - -	53
		Observations relative to Cholera, and the Facts it has elicited respecting the Condition and Character of the Labouring Population - - - - -	59
13. GRENADA -	Governor-General Sir W. M. G. Colebrooke, June 18, 1855. (No. 40.)	General Report by Lieut.-Governor Keate on the present Condition of Grenada—Statement of recent Financial Proceedings and Steps taken for developing the Resources of the Colony—Excess of Expenditure over the General Revenue—Observations on the course pursued for raising the requisite Supplies, and the Reforms needed in the Legislature for the Preparation of the annual Estimate of Ways and Means and Expenditure - - -	62
		Steps taken with Reference to Roads and Public Works—Organization of a System of Statute Labour.	
		Causes of Decrease in Custom's Receipts—Proposed Revision of the Import Tariff.	
		Education, recent Bill for improving the Educational Institutions of the Country.	
		Sanitary Condition of the Island and its Inhabitants—Necessity for Legislative Interference—Measures for securing Water Supply—The filling in certain Morasses, &c.	
		State of Crime—Causes of the recent Increase to the average Number of Inmates of the St. George's Gaol—Want of a more commodious Prison.	
		Remarks on the Agricultural Prospects of the Island, especially as regards its staple Produce of Rum and Sugar—The Cultivation of Cocoa, Coffee, Nutmegs, &c—Labour Supply—Future Prospect of Trade with the British Provinces in America, &c.	

PART II.—WEST INDIES AND MAURITIUS—*continued.*

Place.	Name and Date.	SUBJECT.	Page.
13. GRENADA—*continued.*	- -	Tabular Statements enclosed in the above Report:—	72
		Abstract Returns of Revenue and Expenditure, 1852, 1853, and 1854.	
		Abstract Returns of Population, Land, Coins, Currency, Churches, Schools, Shipping, Criminal Statistics, &c.	
		Abstract Returns of Imports and Exports, 1852, 1853, and 1854—Value in Sterling.	
		Report on the state of Government House, &c.	
		Account of Receipts and Expenditure of Waterworks at St. George's, Grenada.	
		Report of Inspectors of Prisons on state of the Gaol, &c.	
14. TOBAGO -	Governor-General Sir W. M. G. Colebrooke, August 7, 1855. (No. 35.)	General Report by Lieutenant-Governor Shortland on the state of Tobago—Efficiency of the Government Departments—Organization of Police and Volunteer Companies—Education receiving increased encouragement—Report of Superintendent of the Scarborough Boys School—Establishment of Asylums for Indigent Poor—Legislative proceedings—Operation of Act for the better Government of the Island	78
		Financial position of the Island of an unfavourable character—System of granting Warrants for Payment in anticipation of Revenue.	
		Decreased value of Imports and Exports—Future Prospects of Estate Cultivation.	
		Public Works—Population, &c.	
		Statistical Returns accompanying the above Report:—	80
		Abstract Returns of Revenue and Expenditure, 1852, 1853, and 1854.	
		Abstract Returns of Population, Land, Coins and Currency, Churches, Schools, Shipping, &c.	
		Abstract Returns of Imports and Exports, 1852, 1853, and 1854—Value in Sterling.	
15. ST. VINCENT -	Governor-General Sir W. M. G. Colebrooke, May 19, 1855. (No. 28.)	General Report by Lieutenant-Governor Eyre on the state of St. Vincent - - -	85
		Financial state of the Island—Revenue and Expenditure, Fees, &c.—Report relative to the Public Debt incurred—Return of the Colonial Debt on the 1st January 1855—Lieutenant-Governor's Financial Message to the House of Assembly, reviewing the various heads of Expenditure, and proposing Reductions in the several Public Departments - - - - -	99
		Public Works—State of the Government House, &c.	
		Legislation—Review of the recent Acts of the Legislature—Effects of the recent constitutional changes—Political state of the Island—The Franchise, Council, and Assembly, &c.—Unsatisfactory state of the present Civil Establishment.	
		Population—State of Education, &c.	
		Imports and Exports, decrease therein as compared with the year 1853—Future Prospects of Cultivation—Abandonment of Estates—Returns of all the Produce of St. Vincent in 1853 and 1854, showing the Deficiency in the Production of Sugar.	
		State of Crime—Statistical Returns of Commitments during the years 1853 and 1854.	106

PART II.—WEST INDIES AND MAURITIUS—*continued.*

Place.	Name and Date.	SUBJECT.	Page.
15. ST. VINCENT—*continued.*	- - -	Suggestions for Remedial Measures in reference to the present Condition and Prospects of St. Vincent, as regards Finance—Constitutional changes. Statistical Returns accompanying the above Report:— Tabular Returns of Revenue and Expenditure under different heads, 1852, 1853, and 1854. Tabular Return of Population, Land, Coins and Currency, Churches, Schools, Shipping, Crimes and Offences, &c. Tabular Returns of Imports and Exports, 1852, 1853, and 1854—Value in Sterling.	94
16. ST. LUCIA -	Governor-General Sir W. M. G. Colebrooke, June 11, 1855. (No. 33.)	General Report by Lieutenant-Governor Power on the state of St. Lucia - - - Satisfactory state of affairs exhibited by Financial Statement of Revenue and Expenditure, Imports and Exports. Effects of the recent outbreaks of Cholera—Sanitary Measures adopted—Establishment of Board of Health, &c. Public Works. Legislative Enactments of the year. Education—State of Education in St. Lucia for Children of the higher and lower classes—Proposed Establishment of a Grammar School. Agriculture—Extension of the Métairic System of Cultivation. Crime not on the increase—State of the Gaol—Report of the Inspector of Prisons, &c. - General Observations—Social state of the Island—Increase of Marriages, &c. Statistical Returns accompanying the above Report:— Tabular Statements of Revenue and Expenditure under various heads from 1851 to 1854 inclusive. Tabular Statements of Population, Land, Coins and Currency, Churches, Schools, Shipping, and Crime and Prisoners. Tabular Statement of Imports and Exports, 1851 to 1854—Value in Sterling. Report on the Condition, the Furniture, &c. of Government House - -	108 115 111 114
17. ANTIGUA -	Governor-General Mackintosh, May 22, 1855. (No. 33.)	General Report on the state of Antigua - Satisfactory state of the Finances—Increased productiveness of the Import and Tonnage Duties—Local Revenues, Parochial Rates, &c.—Report relative to the Public Debt. Public Works—Legislative Measures of the past year. Population—Proposal for a Registration of Births, Deaths, &c. Necessity for Medical Care on the part of the Labouring Population—Bad effects of the system of Free Villages. Education—Report on the several Educational Institutions in the Island—Necessity for a General Scheme of Management, &c. Agriculture—State of Sugar Cultivation and Improvements in Manufacture. Report relative to the state of Crime—Gaols, Prisoners, &c. Charitable Institutions of the Island described. Present State and future Prospects of the Island.	117

PART II.—WEST INDIES AND MAURITIUS—*continued.*

Place.	Name and Date.	SUBJECT.	Page.
18. MONTSERRAT	Governor-General Mackintosh, May 22, 1855. (No. 34.)	Mr. President Robinson's General Report on the state of Montserrat - - -	123
		Review of the general Financial Condition of Montserrat—Account of Assets and Liabilities on the 31st December 1854—Statement of Revenue and Expenditure for 1854—Reduction in Expenditure for Public Establishments, &c.	
		Imports and Exports—Great increase in the value of Exports—Tabular Return of Exports from the year 1845 to 1854 inclusive.	
		Agriculture—Report on the Prospects of Agriculture—Improvement in the Cultivation of Sugar Estates—Diminished number of Absentee Proprietors—Future Prospects of the new Proprietors.	
		Heavy Rate of Taxation on the Proprietors of Land—Necessity for reducing the Rate of Local Taxation as a means of permanent relief from their difficulties.	
		Return of direct Taxation on Sugar Estates, and Return of Taxation during the last Ten Years, as also of Articles exported	131-2
		Island Debt—Explanatory Statement on the subject of the Earthquake Loan.	
		Education—Report relative to the Island Schools—Religious Provision, &c.	
		Crime and Offences—Comparative state of Crime for 1853 and 1854—Tabular Statement—System of Gaol Discipline, &c.	
		General Observations on the present Condition and comparative improvement and progress of Montserrat.	
20. ST. KITTS -	Governor-General Mackintosh, May 22, 1855. (No. 41.)	Report by Lieutenant-Governor Robinson on the general condition of St. Kitts - -	133
		Effects of the recent Visitation of Cholera—Dr. Cooper's Report on Cholera—Expenditure in connexion with this Calamity -	139
		Financial State of the Island—Return of Liabilities and Assets—Revenue and Expenditure—Trifling Increase in Revenue—Return of Revenue 1852, 1853, and 1854.	
		Imports and Exports—Value of same, 1852 to 1854—Return of Amount of Exports, 1852 to 1854.	
		Public Works—Report relative to Roads, Waterworks, &c.	
		Population—Report of Commissioners for taking the Census - - -	152
		Immigration—Demand for Labour—Measures for promoting the Immigration of Agricultural Labourers.	
		Education—State of the Island Schools—Return of Number of Attendants in connexion with each Religious Denomination.	
		Crime—The Return under this head continues of a satisfactory character—Statement of the Number of Convicts in Gaol during each of the three last Years.	
21. NEVIS -	Governor-General Mackintosh, May 22, 1855. (No. 42.)	Report by Mr. President Seymour on the condition of Nevis—Proposed incorporate Union of Nevis with St. Kitts—Disproportionate extent of Government Establishment to Population - - -	169
		Consequences of the late Visitation of Cholera—Present Condition of the Labouring Population.	
		Effects of the present Fiscal System and Duties on Imports—State of the Revenue—Payment of Loan, &c.	

PART II.—WEST INDIES AND MAURITIUS—*continued.*

Place.	Name and Date.	SUBJECT.	Page.
21. NEVIS—*cont.*	- - -	Legislation—Recent Act amending the Constitution of the Assembly—Education—Present State of the Schools, and System of Instruction in operation. Amendment of Prison Regulations—Poor Relief—Hospitals, &c.	
22. VIRGIN ISLANDS	Governor-General Mackintosh, May 22, 1855. (No. 43.)	Report of President Kortright on the State of the Virgin Islands - - - -	172
		Review of the Financial State of the Virgin Islands—Revenue and Expenditure—Returns for comparative Periods, 1853 and 1854. Legislation—Amendment of the Constitution of the Virgin Islands. Education—Crime and Gaols. Public Works—State of Government House. Effects of the recent Cholera Visitation—Present Condition of the Population.	
23. DOMINICA -	Governor-General Mackintosh, June 16, 1855. (No. 12.)	General Report on the Condition of Dominica—Satisfactory Financial State—Increase in the Value of Imports and Exports—The Establishments conducted on a moderate Scale of Expense—Liberal Grant in Support of Public Education—State of the Island Debt or Hurricane Loan -	175
24. MAURITIUS -	Major-General Hay, May 3, 1855. (No. 60.)	Financial Condition of Mauritius—Revenue and Expenditure—Excess of Expenditure—Imports, Exports, and Shipping -	176
		Population—Mortality consequent on the recent Cholera Visitation—Ecclesiastical Arrangements—Education—Report of Special Committee of Council on the Education of Indian Children, &c. - - -	178
		Legislation—Ordinances of the past year. Public Works and Grants of Land. Gaols, Prisoners, and Crime—Reorganization of the Police Force, and Services of the new Indian Constables. Agriculture and Manufactures—Increase of Land under Cultivation—Immigration and Supply of Labour during the past year.	

PART III.—AFRICAN SETTLEMENTS AND ST. HELENA.

25. SIERRA LEONE	Acting-Governor Dougan, August 20, 1855. (No. 143.)	General Report respecting Sierra Leone, having reference to the Taxes and Duties levied—Fees—Revenue and Expenditure—Tabular Return of same from the year 1848 to the year 1854 inclusive—Satisfactory State of the Colonial Finances—Observations on present system of Taxation—Modification of the Tariff, &c.—Public Works—Legislation—Council and Assembly—Civil Establishment—Pensions—Foreign Consuls—Population, recent Census—Education—Report on the several Educational Institutions in the Colony—Ecclesiastical Arrangements—Comparative Returns of Imports and Exports, 1853 and 1854—Shipping: comparative Returns for 1853 and 1854—Increase in the Trade and Commerce of the Colony - - - -	184

PART III.—AFRICAN SETTLEMENTS AND ST. HELENA—*continued.*

Place.	Name and Date.	SUBJECT.	Page.
26. GAMBIA -	Governor O'Connor, July 3, 1855. (No. 36.)	General Report respecting the Gambia -	191
		Progress of Public Works—Opening of the Colonial Hospital for the reception of British and Foreign Seamen—Appointment of a French Surgeon, consequent on the extensive French Trade in the Gambia—Returns of Admissions—Discharges and Deaths in the Hospital—Completion of the new Market—State of the Government House and Furniture - - -	
		Legislation — Report on the Ordinances enacted by the Legislative Council during the past year.	
		Ecclesiastical and Educational Statement.	
		Military Returns relative to the Health of the Troops.	
		Recent Visits and Communications with Native Kings and Chiefs.	
		Crime and Offences—The recent Returns considered of a satisfactory character.	
27. GOLD COAST -	Acting Governor Connor, July 16, 1855. (No. 66.)	General Report on the Gold Coast Settlements - - - - -	197
		Recent Insurrections at Accra—Observations on the Necessity for extending the Government Establishments.	
		Receipts from the Poll Tax, and Expenditure thereof.	
		Increase in Imports and Exports over the Year 1853—Export of Palm Oil increased.	
		Revenue and Expenditure.	
		Condition and Habits of the Population—Progress of Christianity and Education—Necessity for Missionary Exertions.	
		Effects of the Climate on Europeans.	
28. ST. HELENA -	Acting-Governor Vigors, March 29, 1855. (No. 7.)	State of the Revenue of St. Helena—Increase of Expenditure, owing to Erection of the New Gaol—Improved Financial Condition of the Colony—Agriculture—Failure of Potato Crops—Successful Cultivation of Wheat, &c.—Report on the Condition of Government House - - -	200
29. CAPE OF GOOD HOPE.	Governor Sir G. Grey, June 9, 1855. (No. 69.)	Transmitting the Blue Book for 1853 -	202
30. NATAL - -	Acting-Governor Cooper, October 19, 1855. (No. 60.)	General Report on the Condition of Natal for the Year 1854 - - -	202
		Revenue and Expenditure of past Year—Return of annual Amount of same since 1846—Favourable state of Revenue.	
		Public Works—Works at the Harbour—Roads and Bridges.	
		Education—Reports of School Commission -	208
		Imports and Exports—Return of annual Amount of same since 1846.	
		Climate—Meteorological Tables.	
		Administration of Justice, Civil and Criminal Returns.	

PART IV.—AUSTRALIAN COLONIES AND NEW ZEALAND.

Place.	Name and Date.	SUBJECT.	Page.
31. NEW SOUTH WALES.	Governor-General Sir Wm. Denison, August 23, 1855. (No. 132.)	General Report on the Condition of New South Wales—Taxes and Duties—Revenue and Expenditure 1854, Territorial Revenue, and Items of General Revenue under various Heads, reported upon—Expenditure under different Heads—Public Works—Education—Imports and Exports—Agriculture—Manufactures, Mines, and Fisheries—Gold Exports—Land Sales—Gaols and Prisoners—Colonial Statistics, &c. -	214
32. VICTORIA -	Governor Sir Charles Hotham, January 25, 1855. (No. 19.)	Report for 1853 on the Amount of Revenue derived from the various Taxes and Duties as enumerated and contrasted with the Year 1852 - - - -	218
		Totals of the General and Territorial Revenues, including the Gold Revenue.	
		Population—Expenses for Ecclesiastical and Educational Establishments.	
		Imports and Exports, &c.	
33. VAN DIEMEN'S LAND.	Governor Sir H. E. F. Young, May 31, 1855. (No. 68.)	General Report for the year 1854 - -	222
		The Population under various Heads—Immigration and Re-emigration.	
		Climate and Disease.	
		Judicial Establishment—Police and Gaols, Crime, &c.	
		Public Worship and Education.	
		Imports and Exports.	
		Revenue and Expenditure—Various Items commented upon.	
		Land Sales—Cultivation—Prices of Provisions and Wages.	
		Legislation—Laws enacted in 1854.	
		Measures for opening up Communications with the newly discovered Country in the Western and South-western Portions of Van Diemen's Land—Report on the Progress of Operations west of the Derwent—	226
		Report on the Road from Dunrobbin to Lake Pedder - - - -	229
		General Observations on the Condition of the Colony founded on the Governor's recent Visits to the Rural Districts.	
		Effects of the System of the Disposal of the Crown Lands under the Regulations of November, 1851.	
		Expenditure on account of Convict Establishment—The State of Public Works and Buildings—The Result of Convict Labour, &c.	
		Statistical Tables of Tasmania for the year 1854 (For Schedule see page 235.)	
34. SOUTH AUSTRALIA.	Acting-Governor Finniss, April 7, 1855. (No. 29.)	General Report for the year 1854—Estimated Population—Crime—Pauperism—Hospital—Lunatic Asylum—Police—Education - - - - -	254
		Agriculture—Land Sales—Tabular Returns relative to Crown Lands and Surveys—Pastoral Interests—Total Quantity of Land occupied under Leases—Extent available for Pasturage—Report of Surveyor General - - - -	264
		Total Value of Imports and Exports—Tonnage.	
		Revenue and Expenditure.	
		Progress of Public Improvement—Roads and Bridges.	
		Legislation—List of Acts of the Legislative Council of South Australia for 1854.	

PART IV.—AUSTRALIAN COLONIES AND NEW ZEALAND—*continued.*

Place.	Name and Date.	SUBJECT.	Page.
35. WESTERN AUSTRALIA.	Governor Fitzgerald, May 3, 1855. (No. 53.)	General Report for the year 1854—Satisfactory Progress of the Colony during the past six years—Population doubled—Increased Amount of Land brought into Cultivation—Stock, &c.—Revenue contrasted with the previous year—Operation of recent Tariff—Shipping—Increase in the Export of Timber—Investment of Capital in the Purchase of Land—Mining Operations—Progress of Public Works -	269
		Education—Report of Commissioners on Progress of Education and the several Schools in the Colony—Rules for the Government of the Public Schools in Western Australia - - -	287
		Social State of the Colony with reference to its Position as a Penal Settlement.	
		Statistical Report of the Registrar General, with illustrative Returns of Population, Births, Deaths, and Marriages—Crops—Stock—Land Sales—Revenue and Expenditure—Imports and Exports -	271
36. NEW ZEALAND	Acting-Governor Wynward, May 11, 1855. (No. 53.)	Forwarding the New Zealand Blue Book for the year 1853 - - -	293

PART V.—EASTERN COLONIES.

37. CEYLON -	Governor Sir H. G. Ward, May 16, 1855.	Forwarding the Ceylon Blue Book for the year 1854 - - - -	296
38. HONG KONG -	Acting-Governor Caine, June 9, 1855. (No. 79.)	General Report respecting Hong Kong for the year 1854—Advancement of the Colony—Increase of Revenue—Expenditure—Public Works—Legislation—Increase of the Chinese Population—Trade also increasing—Privy Council, &c. - -	296
		Report of the Colonial Surgeon.	
		Report of the Chinese Education Committee.	
		Report of the Surveyor-General on the Public Works in progress—Extension of the City.	
39. LABUAN -	Governor Scott, June 26, 1855. (No. 6.)	General Report on the State of Labuan—Revenue and Expenditure—Result of Coal Mining Operations—Proceedings of the Eastern Archipelago Company—Increase of Piratical Depredations—Effects of the Climate, &c. - - - - -	307
40. FALKLAND ISLANDS.	Governor Rennie, January 31, 1855. (No. 9.)	Progressive Improvement of the Colony—Great Increase of Imports and Exports—Revenue and Expenditure—Public Works—Completion of Lighthouse—Fisheries—Comfortable State of the Labouring Population—Review of the Progress of the Falkland Islands since 1850 - -	308

PART VI.—MEDITERRANEAN POSSESSIONS.

Place.	Name and Date.	SUBJECT.	Page.
41. MALTA -	Governor Sir William Reid, May 30, 1855. (No. 65.)	Report of the Auditor-General upon the Revenue--Expenditure and Financial Condition of Malta and its Dependencies during the Year 1854 - - - - -	312
42. IONIAN ISLANDS.	The Right Hon. Sir John Young, Bt. October 20, 1855. (No. 90.)	General Report for the Year 1854--Revenue and Expenditure--Imports and Exports—Local Revenues--Establishments—Education—Agriculture—Commerce, Population, &c. - - - - - - - - -	317

REPORTS

EXHIBITING

THE PAST AND PRESENT STATE OF HER MAJESTY'S COLONIAL POSSESSIONS.

PART I.

NORTH AMERICA.

CANADA.

No. 1.

Copy of a DESPATCH from Governor General Sir Edmund Head, Bart. to the Right Hon. H. Labouchere.

(No. 154.)

Government House, Toronto,
15th December 1855.

(Received, 1st January 1856.)

Sir,

I am quite aware of the delay which has taken place in transmitting the Blue Book for 1854. I have now the honour to enclose it, and I feel that I owe an apology for such apparent neglect.

The removal of the seat of Government from Quebec to Toronto has made it impossible for me hitherto to obtain, in a complete state, the volume now forwarded. I had felt, moreover, that until some time should have been spent by me in Upper Canada, as well as in the lower section of the province, I was scarcely competent to offer any remarks on the prospects and present condition of the whole country to which these statistics relate.

My predecessor, the Earl of Elgin, closed his long and successful administration by placing before Her Majesty's Government an able and faithful statement of the condition in which he left Canada; and this statement encroached upon the very time to which the present "Blue Book" properly relates—the year 1854.

I have little therefore to say at the present moment in illustration of the condition of Canada in 1854. I have taken occasion to visit one or two portions of the eastern section which possess particular interest, and I have employed the interval between leaving Quebec and settling in Toronto in making personal acquaintance with the people of some of the principal cities and towns in Western Canada.

It is gratifying to me to be able to report, as I have already done, that I was everywhere received as the Queen's representative with the strongest marks of loyalty and attachment to Her Majesty's Government. Indeed, it is impossible to exaggerate the universal expression of sympathy with the arms of England, and the universal profession of respect for the person of the Queen.

I am glad, too, to think that the condition of the country is such as to dispose men's minds to maintain these feelings of contentment and loyalty.

The harvest of the province, taken as a whole, has been abundant and prosperous. Late rains inflicted some injury in portions of the country, but the supply of food in the hands of families settled in the various districts of Lower Canada has far exceeded what it has been for either of the two preceding years. I have been told this by persons themselves engaged in farming, as well as by those of the clergy and gentry who had ample means of learning the truth on the spot.

CANADA.

In Upper Canada the prosperity of the season has been perhaps more marked, because it is essentially a wheat-growing country; and the price of grain has been, and still is, such as to make the abundant produce a source of direct pecuniary gain to the farmer. Most persons will tell you that a dollar a bushel for wheat would pay the Canadian farmer, but the price throughout this autumn has averaged nearly double this; so that it is not a matter of wonder if the country bears upon its face the outward marks of progress and advancement.

The timber trade has been depressed, and the export from Quebec and Montreal has fallen far short of the usual quantity, as the following table, which I have every reason to believe correct, will show:—

Supervisor of Cullers' Office, Quebec,
12th November 1855.

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT of Timber, Staves, Masts, Bowsprits, and Spars, measured and culled to Date.

	1853.	1854.	1855.
White Pine - -	17,422,724	19,167,311	12,660,036
Red Pine - - -	1,851,435	3,670,345	2,250,035
Oak - - -	1,169,614	1,746,297	2,023,362
Elm - - -	695,284	1,828,327	1,837,835
Ash - - - -	158,990	218,215	125,107
Basswood - -	6,916	22,474	16,071
Butternut - - -	1,207	1,787	1,685
Tamarac - -	707,551	2,607,056	232,904
Birch and Maple -	71,007	44,926	119,749
Masts and Bowsprits -	1,067 pieces	1,856 pieces	615 pieces
Spars - - -	849 pieces	2,731 pieces	3,112 pieces
St'd Staves - -	1542.1.0. 6	1359.6.0.21	2218.6.2. 4
W. I. Staves - -	2447.2.3.18	2018.4.0. 5	2671.4.1.21
Barrel Staves - -	2.7.1.23	0.2.0. 1	0.3.3.18

(Signed) WM. QUINN, Supervisor.

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT of Arrivals and Tonnage at this Port, in the Years 1854 and 1855, to the 12th November, is as follows:—

1854 - -	1,313	Vessels	- -	579,518 Tons.
1855 - -	677	„	- -	346,449 „
Less this Year	636	„	- -	233,069 „

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT of Arrivals and Tonnage from the Lower Ports in 1854 and 1855, up to the 12th November in each Year:—

1854 - -	183	Vessels	- -	14,819 Tons.
1855 - -	186	„	- -	14,797 „
More this year	3	„	Less -	22

Some compensation has been sought and found in the access of sawn and rough lumber to the United States market, under the provisions of the Reciprocity Treaty, but many of the Quebec merchants have complained of the want of the usual number of ships to take freight from that port.

I cannot help hoping that the scarcity of tonnage will have prevented the Home market from being overloaded in the course of the season just ended, and that the next spring may open with a prospect of a rapid improvement in prices. I am not yet sufficiently conversant with the proposed modifications of the French tariff to know how far they disclose any clear view of a wider market for Canadian produce generally, but, judging from the statements in the papers, the charge must be most beneficial to the ship-builders of British North America. The official visit of Monsieur de Belvèze, in a French vessel of war, inspired some expectation of a more liberal commercial system. The visit was curious

in itself, and suggestive of deep reflection, as being the first outward manifestation on this side of the Atlantic of the alliance between two great nations, so long at enmity one with another and now so happily united.

When I visited Canada in 1850 on public business, there were in existence about 25 miles of railway. There are now open and at work the following lines:

	Miles.		
Brockville to Montreal - -	132		
Montreal and Portland to boundary line -	128*		Grand Trunk Railway.
Quebec to St. Thomas - -	34		
Quebec to St. Richmond - -	96		
		390	
Niagara Falls to Windsor - -	229		
Toronto to Hamilton - - -	38		Great Western Railway.
Fairchild's Creek to Galt - -	12		
Galt to Preston - - -	3		
		282	
Toronto to Collingwood - -		94	Ontario, Simcoe, and Huron Railway.
Buffalo, Brantford, and Goderich (open to Paris) - - -		84	
Ottawa to Prescott - - -		54	
Cobourg to Peterboro' - -		28	
Montreal and Lachine - -		8	
Champlain and St. Lawrence - -		44	
Lanoraie, Berthier, and Rawdon -		24	
Montreal and Plattsburgh to boundary line - - - -		39	
		1,047	

The transit trade from Illinois and Michigan of beasts and pigs through Western Canada to the State of New York is very large, and the increase of the city of Hamilton alone is sufficient to show the nature of the trade which feeds it.

The following is extracted from the public papers as illustrating the progress of this line of railway.

" Great Western Railway Audit Office,
" Hamilton, 10th November 1855.

" COMPARATIVE STATEMENT of TRAFFIC for the week ending 9th November 1855.

" Number of Passengers - - -	15,206
" Number same period last year - -	11,862
" Receipts for Passengers - - -	£9,249 17 11¾
" Receipts same period last year - -	£6,806 19 9¾
" Receipts for Freight - - - -	£5,713 11 7
" Receipts same period last year - -	£2,421 3 0
" Receipts for Sundries - - -	£383 17 2
" Receipts same period last year -	£359 7 11
" Total Receipts - - - -	£15,347 8 8¾
" Total same period last year - -	£9,587 8 8¾
" Number of miles open - - -	241
" Number same period last year - -	241
" Total Number of Passengers - -	214,612
" Total same period last year - -	168,504½
" Total traffic since 1st August 1855 -	£179,547 4 2
" Total same period last year - -	£108,879 10 6¾

" (Signed) GEO. DARTNELL.

* The Grand Trunk Railway extends to Portland, 171 miles beyond the boundary line, through the state of Maine; this might very fairly be added to the above, making the Total 1,218.

CANADA.

" It is reported that there is now in store in Chicago, or in transitu for the " sea-board *viâ* Detroit, 700,000 bushels of wheat, which have been purchased " on account of the French Government."

You are aware, Sir, of the decrease in the number of emigrants arrived in the course of this season as compared with the last. The following table shows how the account stood on the 30th of September last.

RETURN of the Number of Emigrants arrived at Quebec during the Years 1853 and 1854 and to the 30th September 1855.

WHENCE.	1853.	1854.	30th Sep. 1855.
England - -	9,585	18,175	6,099
Ireland - -	14,417	16,168	4,088
Scotland - -	4,745	6,446	4,679
Germany - -	2,400	5,688	3,838
Norway - -	5,056	5,849	1,581
Lower Ports - -	496	857	650
	36,699	53,183	20,935

RETURN of the Number of Emigrants arrived at Quebec to the 30th September for the Years 1853, 1854, and 1855.

WHENCE.	1853.	1854.	1855.
England - -	8,676	16,809	6,099
Ireland - -	13,896	13,375	4,088
Scotland - -	4,651	5,463	4,679
Germany - -	2,400	5,321	3,838
Norway - -	4,605	5,696	1,581
Lower Ports - -	441	711	650
	34,669	47,375	20,935

If I may judge by the returns published in the newspapers, the decrease of emigrants in the ports of the United States has been still larger in proportion.

There remain two subjects of considerable importance which I feel bound to notice in this despatch:—the working of the Reciprocity Treaty, and the condition and prospects of the native population in Canada.

With regard to the former, the following tables, marked respectively A, B, C, will give a good deal of information. They are necessarily imperfect, and exhibit but a small portion of the year, so that no very positive conclusions can be drawn from them.

(A.)—EXPORTS.

STATEMENT showing the Quantity and Value of Articles declared Free by the Reciprocity Treaty, Exported from Canada to the United States during the Years 1850, 1851, 1852, 1853, 1854, and for the Half Year ending 5th July 1855.

ARTICLES.	1850.		1851.		1852.		1853.		1854.		Half Year of 1855.	
	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.
		£ s. d.		£ s. d.		£ s. d.		£ s. d.		£ s. d.		£ s. d.
Animals - - - No.	27,674	84,575 15 7	33,731	91,118 8 6	39,762	87,194 9 6	59,740	143,378 19 6	27,320	103,500 3 4	11,458	63,737 11 0
Ashes - - - Brls.	15,600	110,620 4 0	2,183	14,206 2 5	6,700	46,875 6 2	3,850	25,727 19 9	3,570	27,129 9 11	2,370	16,497 0 3
Butter - - - Cwts.	4,263	11,724 11 8	6,030	14,052 10 2	25,140	98,660 19 10	12,110	42,688 7 6	6,500	29,260 1 6	3,990	19,994 17 5
Cheese - - - „	1	2 8 1	2	4 4 6	40	82 8 6	45	139 16 3	45	139 17 3	9	28 17 6
Eggs - - - Doz.	387,343	6,448 15 0	610,260	13,228 14 2	697,671	17,938 14 0	741,964	18,526 9 5	214,174	5,731 6 1	163,590	5,268 7 1
Fruit - - - -	—	519 2 7	—	476 11 8	—	785 15 7	—	2,040 8 6	—	697 18 10	—	131 5 0
Fish - - - Cwts.	13,300	7,717 7 10	20,700	10,932 7 10	22,070	11,035 6 6	37,500	18,324 7 5	41,250	21,107 19 9	21,120	10,589 4 8
Fish Oil - - - Galls.	120	18 10 9	100	13 14 0	15,370	1,537 0 0	250	31 5 0	2,080	260 3 6	17,160	2,425 0 0
Flour - - - Brls.	344,720	362,865 17 7	287,580	289,785 16 6	416,000	415,941 5 0	412,200	556,840 9 11	491,475	842,579 17 5	306,311	688,406 10 4
Furs and Skins - - -	—	15,964 10 2	—	19,823 5 7	—	15,594 16 7	—	21,020 16 11	—	13,366 15 6	—	7,272 0 0
Grain - - - Bush.	1,949,130	299,400 12 2	1,388,046	183,281 16 5	2,466,262	378,025 1 2	3,022,279	657,033 13 11	1,355,146	474,283 17 4	1,103,357	430,432 4 10
Hides - - - -	—	979 6 3	—	67 19 0	—	2,243 5 2	—	3,395 18 9	—	5,477 8 4	—	6,995 9 10
Horns - - - -	—	44 9 0	—	79 7 6	—	230 0 0	—	174 18 4	—	369 11 11	—	115 3 6
Lard - - - -	—	517 8 3	—	1,591 13 9	—	316 6 6	—	378 9 2	—	458 17 0	—	3,572 18 4
Manures - - -	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1,292 10 0	—	2,012 0 0	—	1,381 0 0
Meat of all Kinds - - Cwts.	1,100	1,689 10 6	724	1,230 16 10	9,500	6,257 11 3	6,040	10,251 7 9	4,900	8,317 11 6	1,750	3,266 7 2
Ores of Metal - - -	—	—	—	—	—	48 0 0	—	14,600 0 0	—	21,787 1 6	—	—
Rags - - - -	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	5,341 7 4	—	2,443 0 10	—	2,363 1 2
Seeds - - - Bush.	33,400	12,707 3 10	24,000	8,859 15 9	58,380	23,644 9 11	37,980	19,844 17 11	28,500	13,708 2 7	23,200	11,411 8 1
Stone, Unwrought - -	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	7,870 6 3	—	228 0 0
Tallow - - -	—	2,406 8 7	—	—	—	45 6 9	—	27 9 6	—	210 8 9	—	44 0 0
Trees and Shrubs - -	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	187 14 0
Timber and Lumber - M.F.	172,600	259,112 0 6	178,500	286,816 7 11	198,800	397,579 9 7	293,546	605,795 7 9	217,550	493,756 9 3	106,690	258,914 2 6
Tobacco, Unmanufactured - Lbs.	—	—	1,045	15 5 0	—	—	50,058	886 10 0	—	—	4,060	94 10 0
Vegetables - - -	—	1,353 14 11	—	1,832 18 0	—	1,007 7 3	—	599 18 10	—	907 19 6	—	16,187 19 2
Wool - - - Lbs.	276,991	14,214 15 8	403,100	19,759 17 6	387,874	18,576 4 10	423,000	41,389 6 7	122,570	7,559 15 6	189,690	15,079 16 0
Total - -	—	1,192,882 12 11	—	957,177 13 0	—	1,533,619 4 1	—	2,189,730 16 0	—	2,082,936 3 4	—	1,564,623 7 10

Inspector General's Office,
Customs Department, Quebec,
22d September 1855.

CANADA.

(B.)—IMPORTS AND EXPORTS.

STATEMENT showing the Quantity and Value of the Imports and Exports of Articles declared Free by the Reciprocity Treaty during the Half-year ending 5th July 1855.

	Imports.				Exports.			
	Quantity.	Value.			Quantity.	Value.		
		£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
Animals - - - No.	1,630	24,432	5	1	11,458	63,737	11	0
Ashes - - - Brls.	80	550	1	5	2,370	16,497	0	3
Burstone - - -	—	1,529	12	10	—	—		
Broom Corn - - -	—	1,850	14	0	—	—		
Butter - - - Cwt.	520	2,107	7	11	3,990	19,994	17	5
Cheese - - - „	1,990	7,975	0	11	9	28	17	6
Coal - - - Tons	29,500	22,445	7	0	—	—		
Cotton Wool - -	—	1,193	10	1	—	—		
Flax, Hemp, and Tow -	—	8,020	17	8	—	—		
Bark - - -	—	91	1	11	—	—		
Fish - - - - Cwt.	—	8,877	6	0	21,120	10,589	4	8
Fish, products of - -	—	1,012	0	6	—	—		
Fish Oil - - - Galls.	75,300	9,413	18	2	17,160	2,425	0	0
Fruit - - -	—	10,343	14	2	—	131	5	0
Furs and Skins, Undressed -	—	4,031	10	11	—	7,272	0	0
Flour - - - Brls.	51,840	116,940	3	0	306,311	688,406	10	4
Grain - - - Bush.	1,020,500	272,236	11	3	1,103,357	430,432	4	10
Gypsum - - -	—	2,094	12	9	—	—		
Dye Stuffs - - -	—	2,748	2	7	—	—		
Eggs - - - - Doz.	1,160	29	18	5	163,590	5,268	7	1
Hides - - -	—	20,945	7	7	—	6,995	9	10
Horns - - -	—	2	0	0	—	115	3	6
Lard - - -	—	18,679	4	10	—	3,572	18	4
Marble, Unwrought -	—	2,065	8	11	—	—		
Manures - - -	—	2,034	1	0	—	1,380	0	0
Meat of all Kinds - - Cwt.	76,350	169,512	7	5	1,750	3,266	7	2
Pitch and Tar - - Brls.	2,500	1,271	14	8	—	—		
Rags - - - -	—	3	10	0	—	2,363	1	2
Rice - - - Cwt.	2,990	4,488	9	10	—	—		
Seeds - - - - Bush.	—	22,191	5	9	23,200	11,411	8	1
Ores of Metal - -	—	16	0	0	—	—		
Slate - - - -	—	2,124	5	6	—	—		
Stone, Unwrought - -	—	1,204	13	2	—	228	0	0
Tallow - - -	—	25,438	10	6	—	44	0	0
Trees and Shrubs - -	—	5,159	10	7	—	187	14	0
Timber and Lumber - M. F.	—	13,228	18	8	106,690	258,914	2	6
Tobacco, Unmanufactured - Lbs.	228,850	6,626	13	1	4,060	94	10	0
Turpentine - - -	—	579	1	10	—	—		
Vegetables - -	—	872	2	9	—	16,187	19	2
Wool - - - - Lbs.	—	2,966	3	5	189,690	15,079	16	0
Total - - -	—	797,333	6	1	—	1,564,623	7	10

(C.)—IMPORTS.

STATEMENT showing the Value of Free Goods Imported into Canada during the Half Year ending 5th July 1855, compared with the corresponding Period of 1854, during which some of these Articles were chargeable with Duty, and showing the Rate of Duty charged thereon, also the Amount of Duty collected on Articles made free by Reciprocity Treaty.

ARTICLES.	1855.		1854.		Duty collected on Articles made free by Reciprocity Treaty.	Rate of Duty per Cent.	Authority for the Exemption.
	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.			
		£ s. d.		£ s. d.	£ s. d.		
Anatomical Preparations	—	25 10 0	—	801 11 10	—	Free.	12 Vict. c. 1.
Anchors	(*)	1,794 8 9	—	3,030 16 9	—	2½	18 Vict. c. 5.
Animals	—	25,070 5 5	—	14,091 0 0	1,000 0 0	20 and Free.	18 Vict. c. 5. and 12 Vict. c. 5.
Ashes	—	550 1 5	—	46 13 0	—	Free.	12 Vict. c. 1.
Books	—	61,541 0 9	—	60,367 9 7	—	"	
Book-binders' Tools	—	103 3 3	—	—	—	12½	18 Vict. c. 5.
Bristles	—	748 0 9	—	53 9 5	—	2½	
Burstones, unwrought	—	446 6 6	—	763 6 4	19 1 8	"	
Bunting	—	5 0 0	—	—	—	12½	
Broom Corn	—	1,850 14 0	—	1,021 8 0	25 10 8	2½	
Busts and Casts	—	482 12 5	—	221 13 3	—	Free.	12 Vict. c. 1.
Butter Cwt.	520	2,107 7 11	—	38 8 1	7 13 8	20	18 Vict. c. 1.
Cabinets of Coins	—	—	—	—	—	Free.	12 Vict. c. 1.
Caoutchouc	—	3,073 17 3	—	—	—	12½	18 Vict. c. 5.
Cheese	—	8,965 0 10	—	3,405 12 0	681 2 5	20	
Coal and Coke Tons	36,500	29,772 19 9	56,500	35,745 9 1	693 12 6	2½	
Copper	(*)	2,825 5 1	—	7,382 5 0	—	"	
Cordage	(*)	18,472 9 1	—	44,924 3 9	—	"	
Cotton and Flax Waste	—	806 15 8	—	796 17 5	—	"	
Cotton Wool	—	1,193 10 1	—	2,475 15 10	—	Free.	12 Vict. c. 1.
Chain Cables	(*)	2,038 4 2	—	21,464 4 0	—	2½	18 Vict. c. 5.
Donations	—	38 5 0	—	48 0 0	—	Free.	12 Vict. c. 1.
Drawings	—	5,985 8 8	—	3,637 7 8	—	"	
Dye Stuffs	—	2,148 2 7	—	3,758 11 10	75 0 0	2½	18 Vict. c. 5.
Farming Implements	—	321 10 0	—	166 6 8	—	Free.	12 Vict. c. 1.
Felt Sheeting	—	1,583 18 6	—	2,249 4 0	—	2½	18 Vict. c. 5.
Fire Clay	—	205 6 5	—	248 1 1	—	"	
Flax, Hemp, and Tow	(*)	9,065 17 8	—	19,766 14 0	325 0 0	2½	
Fruit, Green	—	9,581 15 10	—	5,033 18 2	1,510 2 6	30	
Flour Brls.	51,870	111,002 6 4	150	219 10 2	43 18 1	20	
Grain Bush.	1,020,500	272,236 11 3	535,250	118,425 8 10	—	Free.	12 Vict. c. 1.
Grease and Scraps	—	5,056 8 7	—	7,604 12 6	190 2 4	2½	18 Vict. c. 5.
Hay	—	102 18 0	—	—	—	12½	
Hides	—	20,945 7 7	—	38,780 6 6	969 10 3	2½	
Indigo	—	3,021 19 0	—	6,701 4 4	15 0 0	"	
Junk and Oakum	(*)	900 12 2	—	5,226 15 2	—	2½	
Lard	—	18,679 4 10	—	5,850 6 10	146 5 2	"	
Lead	—	2,014 2 9	—	2,737 13 3	—	"	
Marble, unpolished	—	2,065 8 11	—	1,261 18 6	31 11 0	"	
Marine Cement	—	914 14 6	—	811 15 8	—	"	
Maps	—	2,128 3 2	—	1,311 5 6	—	Free.	12 Vict. c. 1.
Manures	—	2,034 1 0	—	3,265 15 3	—	"	
Meal	—	6,054 9 9	—	551 15 6	18 0 0	20	18 Vict. c. 5.
Meat of all kinds	—	47,533 4 5	—	4,200 1 4	840 0 3	"	
Mess Pork Brls.	30,490	121,979 3 0	15,120	45,125 0 2	5,640 12 6	12½	
Military Clothing	—	188 13 4	—	776 18 0	—	Free.	12 Vict. c. 1.
Military Stores	—	49 0 0	—	—	—	"	
Models	—	327 1 8	—	111 2 0	—	"	
Naval Stores	—	4 5 0	—	—	—	"	
Oil, Cocoa Nut, Palm, and Pine	—	4,668 6 10	—	2,391 6 0	—	2½	18 Vict. c. 5.
Ores of Metals	—	16 0 0	—	213 0 0	—	"	
Philosophical Instruments	—	225 5 0	—	1,114 4 9	—	Free.	12 Vict. c. 1.
Pig Iron	—	14,631 10 6	—	59,651 0 2	—	2½	18 Vict. c. 5.
Pipe-clay	—	133 10 6	—	296 19 10	—	"	
Pitch and Tar Brls.	(*) 2,500	1,271 14 8	3,840	1,920 19 7	35 0 0	"	
Printing Materials	—	11,223 1 9	—	5,509 8 9	—	"	
Rags	—	3 10 0	—	—	—	12½	
Resin and Rosin Brls.	(*) 1,400	371 1 7	9,600	2,486 13 10	—	2½	
Russia Hemp Yarn	—	83 7 7	—	—	—	"	
Salt Bush.	337,500	12,424 19 7	371,670	10,911 15 8	—	Free.	16 Vict. c. 85.
Saw Logs	—	1,052 10 2	—	154 0 0	3 17 0	2½	18 Vict. c. 5.
Seeds	—	23,585 5 9	—	22,741 6 0	—	Free.	16 Vict. c 85.

(*) All these articles are chiefly used in ship-building, and the falling off may be in a great measure attributed to the great stagnation of the trade.

ARTICLES.	1855.		1854.		Duty collected on Articles made free by Reciprocity Treaty.	Rate of Duty per Cent.	Authority for the Exemption.
	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.			
		£ s. d.		£ s. d.	£ s. d.		
Sail Cloth	(*)	5,760 0 10	—	13,725 9 0	—	2½	18 Vict. c. 5.
Settlers Goods	—	45,221 12 0	—	35,833 7 0	—	Free.	12 Vict. c. 1.
Ships Water Casks	—	9 10 0	—	—	—	2½	13 Vict. c. 5.
Soda Ash	—	2,407 19 4	—	3,994 11 10	—	Free.	12 Vict. c. 1.
Specimens	—	74 16 6	—	92 6 3	—	„	
Tallow	—	25,438 10 6	—	19,216 10 11	480 8 3	2½	18 Vict. c. 5.
Teasles	—	9 13 5	—	—	—	„	
Trees and Shrubs	—	5,159 10 7	—	11,387 16 9	—	Free.	12 Vict. c. 1.
Type Metal in Blocks	—	832 17 1	—	—	—	2½	18 Vict. c. 5.
Treenails	—	558 15 2	—	—	—	12½	
Wine for Officers Mess	—	—	—	662 7 7	—	Free.	13 & 14 Vict. c. 5.
Wool	—	2,966 3 5	—	5,853 13 11	146 6 10	2½	18 Vict. c. 5.
Varnish, Black and Bright	—	229 17 5	—	12 5 0	—	„	
Yellow Metal	—	2,001 10 10	—	—	—	12½	
Veneers	—	523 11 4	—	—	—	12½	
Wood for Carpenters Tools	—	27 0 0	—	—	—	2½	
Other Articles	—	19,381 13 4	—	18,040 14 9	—	—	
Articles not herein-before enumerated and admitted free from United States only under Reciprocity Treaty:							
Bark	—	91 1 11	—	—	—	12½	18 Vict. c. 1.
Burstones, Wrought	—	1,083 6 4	—	—	—	„	
Eggs	—	29 18 5	—	—	—	„	
Fish	—	8,877 6 1	—	7,042 16 2	880 7 1	„	
Fish Oil	—	9,413 18 2	—	—	—	„	
Fish, Products of	—	1,012 0 6	—	—	—	„	
Firewood	—	2,945 11 10	—	—	—	„	
Furs and Skins, Undressed	—	4,031 10 11	—	—	—	2½	
Fruit, Dried	—	1,687 18 4	—	—	—	30	
Gypsum	—	2,094 12 9	—	—	—	Free.	
Horns	—	2 0 0	—	—	—	12½	
Rice	—	4,488 9 10	—	5,094 19 9	636 17 6	„	
Slate	—	2,124 5 6	—	—	—	„	
Stone, Unwrought	—	1,204 13 2	—	—	—	„	
Timber and Lumber	—	10,283 6 10	—	5,789 17 5	723 14 8	„	
Turpentine	—	579 1 10	—	—	—	„	
Tobacco, Unmanufactured Lbs.	228,850	6,626 13 2	—	—	—	12½ and ½ per lb	
Vegetables	—	872 2 8	—	346 8 4	43 6 1	12½	
Articles, the Produce or Manufacture of Great Britain or of the British North American Provinces, when imported direct:							
Biscuit and Bread	—	304 14 2	—	183 13 5	—	—	12 Vict. c. 1.
Cocoa Paste	—	91 17 3	—	26 10 9	—	—	
Fish Oil	—	—	—	4,865 7 4	—	—	
Fish, Fresh and Salted	—	2,838 5 4	—	3,268 2 2	—	—	
Furs and Skins	—	279 6 4	—	6,562 3 9	—	—	
Pelts and Skins, Undressed	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Gypsum	—	150 0 0	—	—	—	—	
Horns	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Vegetables	—	74 10 0	—	—	—	—	
Wood	—	123 0 0	—	—	—	—	
Total	—	1,049,643 9 10	—	723,389 12 11	15,182 0 5	—	

Upon the whole, I have heard of no practical difficulties of any consequence in connection with the fisheries, and I have every reason to believe that the treaty has hitherto been working advantageously for all parties. I ought, perhaps, to advert for a moment to Sir George Grey's dispatch of October 19th, No. 46., enclosing a copy of the opinion of the law officers with regard to the observance of local laws and regulations by American fishermen. I was aware, some time since, of the terms of Mr. Marcy's circular, to which this opinion relates, but I did not call special attention to it, only because I never doubted for one moment the principle now laid down by Her Majesty's law officers; viz., that American fishermen, exercising their calling under the treaty in British waters, were amenable to the same laws as British subjects. I mentioned the point, indeed, some time ago to the Attorney General for Lower Canada, and I then professed my intention of asserting the same sovereign rights over British and American fishermen in every case, as a matter nowise depending on the stipulations of the treaty, but as an ordinary incident of the full 'dominium' enjoyed by the Queen in British waters.

In a despatch dated 24th January 1855 (No. 11.) Sir George Grey was pleased to observe, with reference to Indian matters: "But before adopting a "conclusion on the practical questions which it (Mr. Oliphant's Report) "suggests, I shall await the communication of the opinions which you may "form after you shall have had an opportunity of giving it your consideration."

I have, in consequence of what was there said, endeavoured to obtain the best possible information, and to consider the least objectionable means of gradually effacing from the Estimates of the Imperial Parliament all and any charges for the Indians of Canada. In doing this, I have given full weight to the propositions made by Mr. Oliphant in his report to Lord Elgin, and I am prepared to say that I think the scheme set forth by Lord Bury in the annexed Report* would be more effectual in itself, and more satisfactory in every way, than the contingent expiration of the charge at the end of seven or eight years as proposed by Mr. Oliphant. In the first place, in order to assume that the charge would so expire, we must suppose that all went perfectly smooth,—that the Sangeen Islands turned out as good and as valuable as it is hoped they will, and that the surveys, the sales, and the payments, all were made and effected at the precise moments anticipated. How little any such uninterrupted success is to be anticipated, we may judge by the attempt to commence the sales this autumn, which has failed, as I believe, by the neglect, if not the wilful misconduct, of one of our surveyors. This delay alone will postpone the first receipts from this large tract for eight months or more.

There is no necessity for my explaining the details of Lord Bury's scheme, which he has set forth himself, and to which I earnestly solicit the attention of Her Majesty's advisers.

If this plan were adopted, a sum of 80,000*l.* representing the average payment for (say) seven years, would have to be voted by the Imperial Parliament, and invested in Six per cent. Canadian debentures in the name of some official trustees in England, and the interest would be paid to the Indian Department here in perpetuity. The result of such an investment would be the immediate and entire disappearance of the charge from the Estimates of the House of Commons,—not merely its expiration at the end of eight or ten years, as contingent on the success of certain sales and transfers of property in this country. Whether it is worth the while of Great Britain to purchase the redemption of the charge at such a price, it is for Her Majesty's Government to judge. I approach the whole subject with pain and misgiving, because I never feel quite confident of the possibility of reconciling the perfect good faith of England towards the aborigines with the natural wish of the Queen's Government to effect the abolition of all charge on the Imperial Revenue, a course which I know to be, in the abstract, right and desirable in every way. This misgiving in my own mind makes me perhaps catch at an expedient which neither a British Government nor a British House of Commons may deem admissible; but such as it is, I submit it to your consideration, and I shall be ready to do my utmost to carry out that or any other course of policy which may appear best adapted for obtaining the same results.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMUND HEAD.

Right Hon. H. Labouchere,
&c. &c. &c.

* This Report is omitted, on account of its volume, to be printed with the present collection.

NOVA SCOTIA.

NOVA SCOTIA.

[*The usual Annual Report for* 1854 *has not been received from the Province of Nova Scotia.*]

NEW BRUNSWICK.

NEW BRUNSWICK.

No. 2.

No. 2.

Copy of a DESPATCH from the Honourable J. H. T. Manners Sutton to the Right Honourable H. Labouchere, Esq., M.P.

(No. 39.)

Government House, Fredericton,
New Brunswick, November 30, 1855.

(Received January 1, 1856.)

Sir,

1. I have the honour herewith to forward to you in duplicate the Blue Book of this province for 1854.

2. The greater portion of that year had already passed when I arrived in the province, and I fear, therefore, that my explanatory observations on the returns now submitted to you will be less full than I could desire.

3. I shall, in the first instance, lay before you a short statement of the general course of events in the province during the year 1854, and I shall then proceed to notice in succession the returns in the Blue Book which appear to me to require explanation or remark.

4. It affords me much satisfaction to state that the public revenue of the province for 1854 rose to an amount unprecedented in any former year. The flourishing condition of the finances is mainly attributable to the fact that during the spring unusually large quantities of dutiable articles were either laid in or ordered, in the expectation that the ensuing season would be one of great commercial prosperity; but I regret to say that these expectations were not realized; and in this instance, therefore, the revenue tables for the year do not, by themselves, afford a complete test of the general condition of the province during the whole of the year to which they refer.

5. At the commencement of the year 1854, wood and ships, the staple exports of the province, were in great demand at highly remunerative prices; the money market was easy, and, although even then the necessaries of life had risen in value, this rise was fully counterbalanced by the increased rate of wages, which labour of every description commanded.

6. Trade and commerce flourished in every part of the province, and the industry of the people found full and profitable employment. A stimulus was thus given to the consumption, and a still greater stimulus to the importation of dutiable articles, and every preparation was made in the spring for the conduct of an extensive trade both in imports and exports, during the summer and autumn, from which large profits were expected.

7. A series of events however occurred, in succession, which frustrated these expectations. The first in order of these events was, the appearance of the cholera in the province. The cholera broke out in St. John in the course of the summer, and extended itself to some other parts of the province. The disease caused many deaths wherever it appeared, but it was at St. John, where it first broke out, that it raged with the greatest violence, and occasioned the greatest mortality. The alarm was general, and numbers of people left the city; the ship-yards were deserted, and every species of industry was suspended. The pestilence was happily of short duration, but confidence was not restored until some time after the cholera had subsided, and the trade of St. John, especially the internal trade, suffered a blow from which it did not recover during the remainder of the year.

8. In the autumn, moreover, the value of wood and of ships materially fell, and money became scarce. No failures of any importance occurred in this

province; but the stability of the commercial houses here was no doubt, in many instances, severely tested, and the year which was ushered in with the promise of unusual prosperity terminated in a period of gloom and commercial depression.

9. Nor should I omit to say that the agricultural crops for the year were generally light, or at least the amount of agricultural produce raised was considerably below the average.

10. The season was, I believe, in some respects an unfavorable one, and the potato crop especially, which is a crop of great importance here, was extensively tainted by disease. But I entertain no doubt that the deficiency in the harvest of 1854 was, in part at least, to be attributed to causes unconnected with the season. The temptations which lumbering occupations held out to farmers at the commencement of the year led, I believe, to a diminution far below the average of the breadth of land cropped in the spring, and the high rate of wages which prevailed during the summer probably contributed still further to reduce the amount of labour employed in the culture of the lands. However this may be, the price of the principal necessaries of life during the winter was unusually high, and considerable distress prevailed in different parts of the province, and especially in those districts where lumbering pursuits had diverted the attention of the rural population from agriculture.

11. A general review then of the course of events here in 1854 will show that year to have been one of disappointment, if not of actual distress. The occurrences of the year prescribe to the commercial classes caution, and to the agricultural population a more constant attention to agricultural pursuits, but I see no reason whatever to believe that the progress of the province in prosperity has received any material check.

12. The foregoing observations on the general financial condition of the province preclude the necessity for my offering any observations on the returns in the Blue Book which relate to the revenue and expenditure.

13. But the "public debt" of the province requires some remarks. The funded debt, as thus set forth, amounts to 81,360*l.* (currency), the unfunded debt to 94,834*l.* (currency), making in all a total amount of debt of 176,194*l.* (currency). But it is not the amount of the debt (although that is considerable when taken in relation to the annual revenue of the province), but the character of the unfunded debt and the manner in which it has been incurred, which suggest matter for the most serious consideration.

14. A very large proportion at least, if not the whole, of the unfunded debt consists of accumulated deficiencies in former years, arising from an excess of the current expenditure over the revenue of the year; and it is impossible to regard as satisfactory an arrangement whereby the whole of the deposits in the savings banks, which fluctuate in amount and are liable to be withdrawn at call, form the sole means at the disposal of the Government for meeting a debt of more than 90,000*l.* (currency.)

15. Moreover the existence of a system whereby the excess of expenditure over income during any one year does not necessarily call for any special or particular provision in the succeeding year to meet the new liabilities thus incurred, affords of itself an inducement to disregard those sound principles of financial economy, on the observance of which financial prosperity mainly depends.

16. I have called the attention of my council to this subject, and I trust that some remedy will be applied to the evils which I have briefly noticed. But I cannot conclude my observations on this question without declaring my full concurrence in the opinion so frequently expressed by my predecessor, Sir Edmund Head, that the financial system of this province will never rest on a sound foundation until the executive government is rendered responsible for the introduction of money votes.

17. The next point to which I desire to call your attention is the "Public Works." I regret to say that difficulties have arisen which have impeded the progress of the two lines of railway commenced in this province. I trust that means may be found to remove these impediments and to provide for the gradual but continuous construction of the works. This subject is now under the consideration of the government, but I need scarcely say that a sound financial system is a very important condition to the successful prosecution of

NEW BRUNSWICK.

public works, the construction of which will require large sums of money, and test the stability of the financial credit of the province.

18. It is unnecessary for me to offer any remarks on the character or purport of the various Acts passed by the legislature of the province in 1854. These Acts have been fully explained by my predecessor and by myself, in the despatches which accompanied them when they were transmitted to the Secretary of State. But I may be permitted to express my conviction that the benefits which will be derived by this province from the Reciprocity Treaty with the United States, to which effect was given by an Act passed in the second session of the year 1854, will be found fully to realize the most sanguine expectations of those by whose exertions this arrangement was effected.

19. In the course of the year 1854 a commission was issued (under an Act of Assembly passed for that purpose), by Sir Edmund Head, for inquiring into the state of King's College. The report of the commissioners was laid before me at the conclusion of that year, and was by my directions communicated to both branches of the legislature early in 1855. The subject, however, to which the report refers is one of great difficulty as well as importance. No legislative action has as yet been taken upon it, and I think that the legislature acted wisely in taking time fully to consider the question in all its different bearings. In a community circumstanced as this is there is a natural preference for practical as distinguished from scientific acquirements. But science is the true foundation of practical knowledge, and it would be, in my judgment, most erroneous to suppose that the cultivation of general literature has not a beneficial effect on the tone and character, and even on the material progress of a people; I should therefore view with deep regret the extinction of the provincial collegiate institution. But I am aware that, in the opinion of the public (and in this opinion I am compelled to concur), King's College has not hitherto afforded to the province in general all those benefits which might have been expected from it. I trust that means may be found to remove the existing defects in the college, whether these defects are to be found in its constitution or in the course of education pursued within its walls, and that a system may be devised suited to the present circumstances of the province, and at the same time affording to the youth of the province the full advantages of a liberal collegiate education.

I have, &c.

To the Right Hon. H. Labouchere, Esq., M.P., &c. &c. &c.

(Signed) J. H. T. MANNERS SUTTON.

NEWFOUNDLAND.

NEWFOUNDLAND.

No. 3.

No. 3.

Copy of a DESPATCH from Governor Hamilton to the Right Hon. Lord John Russell.

(No. 157.)

Government House, Newfoundland, April 26, 1855.

(Received May 21, 1855.)

My Lord,

I have the honour to transmit herewith the Blue Book of this Government for the year 1854.

Exports and Imports.

The revenue derived from duties on imports is nearly the same as that received in the previous year.

The alterations which the Reciprocity Treaty with the United States of America will render necessary will involve a relinquishment of 20,000*l.*, more than a fourth of the revenue, and which will have to be made up either by increased duties on articles already taxed, or by an export duty. I am informed that the former will be the probable course; and it may be feared that the consequent result of high duties will be manifested in increased smuggling,

which, on a long line of coast indented with numerous harbours, it will be difficult with our present limited means to prevent.

The imports in the year were 964,527*l.*, against 912,895*l.* of the previous year, showing an increase of upwards of 50,000*l.*, arising, however, from increased cost rather than increased quantity.

The exports were 1,019,572*l.*, against 1,170,503*l.*, showing a falling off of nearly 151,000*l.*; and the exports show a considerably smaller excess over imports than in previous years, the excess in 1854 being only about 55,000*l.*, whereas in the previous year it was nearly 260,000*l.*, and the excess generally has been little short of 200,000*l.*

Cholera, Visitation of, in the Autumn.

In the month of August last, the weather being, as is usual at that season, most beautiful, and the public health good, the cholera suddenly appeared in St. John's, and after two or three fatal cases, and then an intermission of six weeks, the disease swept over the town, carrying off in its ravages upwards of 500 persons, out of a population of 21,000. Mercifully, the disease did not extend to the outports, although some cases, the seeds of which had been sown in this town, occurred in the woods and out-settlements, and were attended by the most afflicting circumstances. This is the first time Newfoundland has been invaded by this terrible disease, and its victims were almost entirely from among the humbler classes. Although the visitation has caused a considerable addition to the public debt, it did not even at the time affect the trade of the colony.

New York, Newfoundland, and London Electric Telegraph Company.

This undertaking, to which I adverted in my last year's Report, was commenced last summer, but is not yet finished, although considerable progress has been made. From the universal interest taken in the advancement of communication by means of the electric telegraph, the work in question, interrupted by the winter season, is not likely to remain long in an incomplete state. The agent of the Company here informs me that that portion of the general line which runs from St. John's across the island for upwards of 200 miles to Cape Ray, and thence by submarine cable to the continent of America, will probably be completed by October, but certainly before the end of this year. And it has been confidently asserted that batteries will be constructed of sufficient force to transmit messages across the Atlantic to this port, thus superseding altogether the employment of steamers in this service.

Reference to the recent Change in the Form of Government of Newfoundland, and its bearing, in one important respect, upon the Condition of the Colony.

In the history of Newfoundland the year 1854 will be considered the most important it has witnessed since its settlement, nearly four centuries ago, as being the year in which the system of government in force in the other North American colonies was, after long-continued agitation, introduced into this oldest dependency of the Crown.

When in 1832 a representative constitution was first conceded to the colony, the Roman Catholics, although a minority of the population, obtained more than their share in the representation; and, fearing the consequences of this error when the controlling power of an independent Governor and Council should be withdrawn, the Protestants have always been opposed to responsible government, except upon the representation being first adjusted.

This difficulty having been in a great measure removed by the passing, in the last session, of an increased Representation Bill, responsible government may now be considered as fairly established; and whether it will be productive of advantage to the people of Newfoundland is a problem which time will solve.

In one important respect its results will, I earnestly hope, be beneficial, by reason of the necessity which it will impose on the leaders of the people of

NEWFOUNDLAND

repressing the growth of voluntary pauperism. During the last few years, taking occasion by the real distress produced by the potato blight (the potato being the sole article of subsistence exacted from this sterile soil), and by the partial fisheries, the system of poor-relief from the public funds has been urged on by the representatives who were opposed to the Government party, with an immediate view at once to their own popularity and to the disparagement of the Executive, and has advanced in a frightful degree.

Some idea of the extent of this enormous evil may be formed when it is considered, that in the past year, in the district of St. John's, nearly every fifth person received relief during the winter months, and that the expenditure for the poor for the whole island amounted to a fourth part of the whole revenue.

Under the new order of things those who are the popular leaders will want at least one motive for encouraging this evil, and will find it necessary to the very existence of their Government to adopt some method by which its progress may be stayed.

I have, &c.
(Signed) KER B. HAMILTON.

The Right Hon. Lord John Russell,
&c. &c. &c.

PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND.

PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND.

No. 4.

No. 4.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Lieutenant-Governor DALY to Sir WILLIAM MOLESWORTH, Bart.

(No. 64.)

Government House, Prince Edward Island,
27th October 1855.

SIR, (Received Nov. 19, 1855.)

I HAVE the honour to transmit to you herewith the "Blue Book" for 1854, in duplicate.

In reporting upon the general condition of the colony, I am happy to be enabled to point to the progressive improvement of the revenue as evidence of prosperity; and although the serious depression under which the commercial world has suffered for some time may, and probably will, affect the revenue of the current year, I do not anticipate such a decrease as will embarrass the financial affairs of the Island.

The following comparative statement of revenue and expenditure, for three years, shows, that in 1854 the revenue amounted to 46,033*l.* 11*s.* 6*d.*, being considerably in advance of that of any previous year.

	Revenue.			Expenditure.		
	£	*s.*	*d.*	£	*s.*	*d.*
1852 -	31,283	9	0	22,285	0	1
1853 -	35,345	3	5	29,433	6	5
1854 -	46,033	11	6	55,926	17	2

With reference to the expenditure of 1854, which is stated to be 55,926*l.* 17*s.* 2*d.*, it is necessary to explain, that this amount includes the balance against the colony of the previous year, amounting to 3,028*l.* 11*s.* 6*d.*, and 18,000*l.* paid on account of the purchase of the Worrell Estate, which items are not fairly chargeable as expenditure of 1854. The latter sum will ultimately be reimbursed to the Government from the sale of the property. Deducting these two sums, the expenditure will be 34,898*l.* 5*s.* 6*d.*, showing an excess of revenue over expenditure for the year of not less than 11,135*l.* 5*s.* 11*d.*

The annexed comparative statement of ships built in the colony for a like period shows a large increase in 1854; but although considerable activity still

prevails in that branch of industry, I anticipate a falling-off in the result of the current year's operations.

SHIPS built in Years 1852, 1853, and 1854.

——	Number exceeding 200 Tons.	Exceeding 100 and not exceeding 200.	All others under 100 Tons.	Gross Amounts of Tonnage.
1852 -	12	32	30	10,104
1853 -	21	32	23	13,340
1854 -	52	34	20	24,111

The value and outward freight of new ships may be added to the exports of the colony. They are for the most part sent to England for sale, a few only of 100 to 200 tons finding a ready sale at Newfoundland, and are employed in the fisheries.

The comparatively limited quantity of large merchantable timber which this island produces exempts the mercantile community in a great degree from the fluctuations in the timber trade which are occasionally so severely felt in neighbouring provinces; and the commerce of this colony is therefore more restricted, and influenced by its agricultural operations, with which it is completely interwoven.

This island is essentially agricultural, and although its resources as a fishing station are boundless, the fisheries have not hitherto attracted any considerable number of the inhabitants to that pursuit.

There is no portion of these provinces better suited to the production of most kinds of grain, esculants, and green crops of all kinds.

The Royal Agricultural Society, founded in 1849, aided by liberal grants from the local Legislature, has done much, by the introduction of improved breeds of horses, cattle, seeds, and implements of husbandry, towards the improvement of agricultural operations generally; whilst the industry of the farmer is stimulated by high prices, and the unbounded market for his produce of all sorts that has been opened to him by "The Reciprocity Treaty."

Emigration to this colony has been very limited for many years; and considering the many natural advantages it possesses, its fertile generous soil, market facilities, and remarkable salubrity of climate, I can only attribute the circumstance to the same cause which has retarded the improvement of the colony in every respect, viz., the early improvident grants of the Crown lands to a non-resident proprietary, which has placed the wilderness lands in the hands of private individuals, who hold them for disposal by lease, or on conditions of sale in excess of the terms at which similar lands are sold in the neighbouring provinces.

The partial success of the proprietors in settling their lands with a tenantry class gave them an exaggerated estimate of their value, which in all new countries is so greatly derived from the labour bestowed upon them. The result for the most part has been disappointment to all the parties concerned. Yet, even now, it appears to be difficult to convince the landlords, nearly all of whom are absentees, that a leasehold system cannot prosper on this side of the Atlantic, and that their pecuniary interests would be best served by the sale of their wild lands at rates not exceeding the prices paid for similar lands in the neighbouring colonies.

The Land Purchase Bill, which is now fairly in operation, has placed a considerable portion of excellent land at the disposal of the Government, which is sold at prices varying according to quality from 5*s.* to 12*s* 6*d.* per acre, the same lands not having been obtainable from the former proprietor at less than one to two pounds per acre.

I am not without hope that the proprietors generally are gradually arriving at the conviction that sound policy demands their adoption of some means for the more speedy sale and settlement of their estates.

It is asserted, and I believe truly, that very many of the youth of the country have emigrated to the neighbouring colonies and to the United States, from the difficulties presented here to the acquisition of freehold property on reason-

PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND.

able terms, and their disinclination to submit to the leasehold tenure on any terms whatever.

An excellent system of common school education has been established in this island, and is giving very general satisfaction.

For the moderate annual payment of 6*s.* 8*d.* currency, the occupant of 100 acres can send all his children to school, and the occupant of 50 acres derives the same advantage from a payment of 3*s.* 4*d.*, without any further charge than a small amount for books and fuel.

An Act was passed in the last Legislative Session for the establishment of a normal school for teachers, and I am now in communication with Mr. Stow, of Glasgow, for the purpose of procuring a properly qualified master to conduct it. When this latter school shall have gone into operation, the facilities for common school education will be found not inferior to those afforded in any portion of British North America, and admirably calculated to meet the requirements of a population where the just appreciation of the advantages of education is happily making considerable progress.

On the withdrawal of the detachment of Her Majesty's troops, I took the earliest opportunity of bringing the subject under the consideration of the Legislature with a view to supplying its place; and the result has been the enactment of a law to impose a rate upon the rent-rolls of certain proprietors, the proceeds to be applied to the maintenance of such force as might be found necessary.

All the arrangements practicable for this purpose have been made, and Her Majesty's confirmation of the Bill which I had the honour of transmitting for that purpose (with my Despatch of the 29th May, No. 19.) is alone wanting to their completion, and the establishment of a corps of pensioners, selected from those previously resident in this Island, as well as from the pensioners recently arrived here from the Newfoundland companies.

Measures are also in progress for the enrolment of volunteer corps, and for perfecting the rolls and fixing the limits of the several battalions and companies of the militia, which hitherto had never been accurately defined.

The population, according to the census which has just been completed (an abstract of which will be found in the Blue Book that I have now the honour of transmitting), amounts to 71,496 souls, showing an increase upon the census of 1848, of not more than 8,818 in six years.

To the same cause which impedes immigration and settlement must be attributed this slow progress of population, which contrasts so unfavourably with other portions of British America, and even with those possessing far inferior natural advantages.

The political condition of this Colony may be said to be very satisfactory. I am not aware of any instance in which the principles of "Responsible Government" have been so severely tested as in their application to the government of this Island.

In the absence of all preparation, by municipal institutions or otherwise, with a population so little advanced in numbers and wealth, there was much to justify the apprehensions for its success that were entertained on its introduction into this Colony. A minority too, who had had most experience in departmental administration, under the old system, resisted its operation with extreme tenacity, on the same grounds.

The loyalty, good sense, and moderation of the people, however, have triumphed over all these difficulties; and I have much satisfaction in believing that, as they become practically aware of the advantages they enjoy under the present system, they desire nothing more than its legitimate application in the administration of the Provincial Government.

In conclusion, Sir, I am happy to be able to assure you of the progressive prosperity and the perfect tranquillity of the Colony.

I have, &c.

(Signed) D. DALY,
Lieutenant Governor.

The Right Hon. Sir William Molesworth, Bart.
&c. &c. &c.

BERMUDA.

No. 5.

Copy of a DESPATCH from Governor Murray to the Right Hon. Lord John Russell.

(No. 55.)

Bermuda, June 20, 1855.

My Lord, (Received July 31, 1855.)

I have the honour to forward the Blue Book for the year 1854.

There is nothing calling for particular remark in the circumstances of the colony, except that the cultivators of the soil are extending their operations and improving their mode of culture in a very satisfactory manner. Several ships of a superior class, both as to tonnage and construction, have lately been built, and that branch of industry is gradually developing itself and improving the new vessels both as to sailing qualities and in all other respects.

I regret to call your Lordship's attention to the extraordinary rise in the cost of the necessaries of life, which, although always very dear in these islands, have now reached an exorbitant price. Your Lordship will observe that bread has reached the extraordinary price of fivepence per pound. This is caused by the great rise in the American markets, on which this colony is in a great measure dependent for supplies of food. On the subject of the Report of the Colonial Secretary on the government houses, I cannot agree with that officer's views generally, for the following reasons :

1st. As to the locality of the house called Mount Langton, now occupied by the Governor. I must explain that it is only at one mile's distance from the public offices and the buildings where the legislative bodies hold their sittings, which are situated in the centre of the town of Hamilton, communicating by an excellent carriage road with Mount Langton, and by a shorter one for pedestrians. There is an excellent landing place for boats, a very general mode of transit in this cluster of islands, just under the house; but what renders the position the more eligible for the Governor's residence is, that it has a command of all the telegraphic stations in the different islands, by which means the Governor can at once communicate with them, and vice versâ. The interruption to public business caused by this distance cannot be very material, and the latter consideration points out this situation as the best that could be selected, the town and its immediate vicinity being shut out from the view of all the telegraphic stations except one.

Again, as to the grounds round the house, it appears that Sir Hilgrove Turner, when Governor, finding the grounds too confined, and the neighbouring grounds in too great proximity to Government House, purchased those lands himself, in order to add them to those already surrounding the house, and that on his leaving Bermuda the colony purchased the lands of him, in order to add them to the existing grounds, and subsequent Governors have much improved them. Should the colony determine upon building a new Government House, which is much needed, the above considerations would point out how advisable it would be to erect it on the same site, or on some spot close to it, within the present grounds.

I have, &c.
(Signed) FREEMAN MURRAY,
Governor and Commander-in-Chief.

The Right Hon. Lord John Russell,
&c. &c. &c.

PART II.

WEST INDIES AND MAURITIUS.

PART II.—WEST INDIES AND MAURITIUS.

JAMAICA.

JAMAICA.

No. 6.

No. 6.

Copy of a DESPATCH from Governor Sir H. Barkly to the Right Hon. Lord John Russell.

(No. 59.)

King's House, May 21, 1855

(Received June 29, 1855.)

My Lord,

In transmitting the Jamaica "Blue Book" for the year 1854, I feel myself spared the necessity of accompanying it with the more detailed report on the state and prospects of the colony, which might have been expected of me at the close of the first entire year in which I have administered its government, by the very full accounts already transmitted with the half-yearly reports of the stipendiary magistrates,* and the long description I have given of my tour* through a great part of the island last spring.

2. Since that time I have visited the remainder of the country, with the exception of four parishes on the south side, reserved for the ensuing autumn; and I may say generally that my views as then expressed have been confirmed, just as much on the one hand by what I saw in St. Thomas in the East, in which the finest and most flourishing sugar plantations are situated, as on the other by the retrogressive tendencies exhibited in St. George's and Portland, where the culture of the cane may be said to be wellnigh extinct.

3. Those views excited no small amount of attention out here upon the publication of my Despatch, which was reproduced in pamphlet form; and although the general correctness of the picture as therein delineated was not, so far as I am aware, called in question by anybody, some of my inferences and my anticipations were, as might have been expected, very severely handled by opposite parties, and upon widely different grounds.

4. That section of the press which claims to represent the "planting interest" found fault with me for having alleged that there was, when I wrote, a fair prospect of well-managed estates proving remunerative; whilst to those who assume to be the friends of the negro, I gave mortal offence, not so much by anything I stated against them,—for I am admitted to have been moderate enough in my strictures,—but for the want of faith which I manifested in the issue of the great experiment of emancipation, so far as Jamaica is concerned, except under very changed conditions.

5. Nothing was easier than to have propitiated the one side by enunciating the restoration of protecting duties as the sole panacea for the evils under which the island was suffering, or the other by declaring the supernatural tendencies of the African race towards the highest phase of civilization; but the less pleasing task of putting Her Majesty's Government in possession of the conscientious convictions I had formed from observation of actual facts devolved upon me, and I performed it then, as I shall endeavour to do in commenting upon the returns now sent, without fear, favour, or partiality.

Revenue and Expenditure.

6. The ordinary revenue of the year ending on 10th October 1854 was only 96,624*l.*, whilst the expenditure, omitting that for immigration defrayed from the guaranteed loan, amounted to 197,633*l.* This fearful discrepancy arose from the falling off of the receipts of the customs and excise, owing to the immense accumulation of stocks during the six months in 1853, when all duties were

* See Papers relative to the Affairs of the Island of Jamaica, presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty, August 10, 1854.

abrogated, and affords fuller data for estimating the total extent of the loss sustained from the political "dead-lock" than was procurable at the time the last "Blue Book" was sent home.

7. Assuming that the revenue would have been equal in 1853 and in 1854 to what it was in 1852, and no valid reason could be assigned to the contrary, the amount sacrificed last year would stand at 110,000*l.*, which, added to that of the preceding year, 67,000*l.*, would be 177,000*l.*, a cypher alarming enough, but still far below the full deficiency, as the receipts from wines and spirits and other articles continue to be greatly affected by the extra importations of 1853, whilst the duty on rum will not yield even this year half what it did previously.

8. The expenditure meanwhile has been very considerably reduced, though the progress in this direction is by no means so rapid or so sweeping as accords with the ideas of many of those extreme politicians whose impatience to effect this object occasioned the calamity just referred to, whereby 130,000*l.* has been added to the permanent debt of the island, and financial embarrassments created which must inevitably entail increased taxation for years to come, and postpone reforms which it would be most desirable on all other accounts to undertake immediately.

9. For the year ending 10th October 1853 the outgoings amounted, exclusive of cholera and small pox expenses, to two hundred and thirty thousand pounds sterling. Last year, as has been already shown, they were under two hundred thousand, and the estimates for the present year are little over one hundred and eighty thousand, whilst prospective reductions to some extent have been determined on during the session.

10. Were the comparison made with a period antecedent to the admission of slave-grown sugar to the British market, it would be even more favourable, and exhibit still more strikingly the difficulty of further retrenchment in the public establishments. The expenditure for ordinary purposes in 1845, the year preceding that event, was two hundred and seventy-seven thousand pounds, or nearly one hundred thousand in excess of 1855; and as, besides this, the parochial taxation, which then averaged another hundred thousand pounds, has for the two past years barely exceeded fifty thousand, it is clear that immense relief has been afforded to the taxpayers, though not, I grieve to admit, in the ratio in which their means of enduring taxation have declined. 104,000*l.*

11. I will only add on this subject that no change has taken place in regard to the defective structure of the accounts forwarded, the urgent pressure on the Receiver General's department having as yet prevented my directing his attention to this point; but I have little doubt that the installation of the Executive Committee as a regular Board of Audit will of itself ere long work out the desired improvements.

Legislation.

12. Under this head there are not among the multiplicity of enactments enumerated as passed in the parts of the two sessions embraced in the year 1854 many worthy to be cited as of lasting importance; by far the greater number, particularly towards the close of the year, when the second session commenced, being mere renewals of previous Acts, necessitated by the jealous system which still leads the Assembly to give even the most essential laws on the Statute Book but very limited duration. The Act "for the better government of the island, and for raising a revenue in aid thereof;" the Act "to consolidate and amend the laws relating to highways, not being turnpikes;" the Act "for the registration and better regulation of mining companies and partnerships;" and the Act "for the management and regulation of the customs of this island," are, however, beneficial results of the first session.

Civil Establishment.

13. Great changes have occurred during the year in official appointments in connexion with two of the above measures,—the Executive Committee having been organized under the first, and the whole Imperial Customs Establishment transferred to the island by the last. Few new admissions, however, took place under the latter Act, except such as followed upon the promotions among the

JAMAICA.

senior officers, consequent upon the retirement of Mr. Swainson, the former collector, and some others, who accepted their superannuation allowance from the Home Government.

14. Upon the death of Dr. Chamberlaine, health officer at Port Royal, who was in receipt of 500*l.* for the performance by deputy of nearly nominal duties in regard to quarantine, I felt it right, in appointing to the vacancy Dr. Downer, a gentleman who had suffered from the sudden discontinuance of his services as physician to the Female Penitentiary when incorporated with the General Penitentiary, to stipulate for the right of the Legislature when it met to reduce the salary or remodel the office, which might be rendered available for the sanitary superintendence of the forty thousand inhabitants of Kingston. The correspondence on the subject was moved for during the session, but nothing has yet been done.

15. The number of stipendiary justices has been further reduced by one, owing to the death of Mr. Ralph Cocking, and the absence of any provision for a successor to his district. Should the state of the finances render it practicable, I purpose directing the attention of the Legislature, on its re-assembling, to the absolute necessity of adding to the paid magistracy throughout the island.

16. Among the clergy, as will be observed, a good many moves occurred from deaths and other circumstances; but suitable candidates for the vacant livings have in all cases been recommended by the bishop, or, after his lordship left the diocese for England, Archdeacon Courtenay, the Vicar General. Much has been said by the island press, and in both branches of the Legislature, against the number of clergymen absent from their duties on leave; and as the licence for such purpose must issue from the Governor's secretary's office, though the law invests the former with no power to inquire into the sufficiency of the causes assigned to the Bishop, I may, perhaps, be permitted to point out that from an ecclesiastical staff numbering nearly a hundred persons, the majority natives of the temperate zones, not more than ten were away during the year, and of course not all of them at the same time. However much, therefore, the Clergy Act is defective in its provisions on the subject, I think it cannot be fairly argued that the power of granting leave has been abused either by my predecessor or myself.

Population.

17. The returns under this head are still, I regret to say, restricted to the information collected at the census of 1844, which, in the first instance not very trustworthy, has become, from the want of a proper system of registering births, deaths, and marriages, totally destitute of value, looking especially to the terrible ravages committed in the interim by two visitations of cholera.

18. The decennial epoch should certainly not have been allowed to expire without a fresh attempt being made to procure reliable statistics on ths most important of all subjects, so far as Jamaica is concerned; but the absolute bankruptcy of the Treasury has hitherto left me no choice, and I am compelled to defer pressing the necessity of a new census on the consideration of the Legislature until sufficient funds for the purpose,—say at least 3,000*l.*,—are forthcoming.

19. As regards the progress of the population last year, we only know that the final shipload of East Indian coolies which left the island was but just counterbalanced by the arrival of some Chinese, the only immigrants introduced; whilst, so far as the native labourers are concerned, the emigration to Navy Bay, reported with the "Blue Book" of 1853, continued during the earlier part of 1854 with even greater eagerness, though possibly the number who have returned since the railway was finished has equalled that which went within the latter period, and thus reduced the actual decrease of the population to the four or five thousand carried off by the cholera.

20. In the meantime nothing whatever could be accomplished towards the improvement either of the moral or physical condition of the lower orders, on

account of the unfortunate derangement of the finances resulting from the political quarrels of the previous year.

Education.

21. The returns of schools show a diminution of upwards of 2,000 children, or 17,536 in lieu of 19,662, as in 1853; the falling off, strange to say, being less conspicuous among those in connexion with the Churches of England and Scotland, which used formerly to receive pecuniary assistance from the colony, than among those of the Baptists and Independents, whose schools have always been conducted on the voluntary principle. A larger grant than usual has this year been voted, as your Lordship is aware, for educational purposes, and steps have likewise been taken for increasing the utility of one, and wholly organizing another, foundation school.

Gaols and Prisoners.

22. Not to dissever the statistics of crime from the rest of those concerning the moral well-being of the people, I take, as I have been wont, these returns next, though bound up almost last in the volume. They are, I cannot but think of a highly favourable nature, whether viewed comparatively with the criminal statistics of other communities, or with previous returns from this colony.

23. Taking Guiana as an apt example of the first, I find that the average number of prisoners in confinement at its penal settlement and in its different gaols, on the 31st December of the three last years of my government, during which there had been a remarkable diminution of crime, was 430 out of a population of 127,000*l.*, or in the proportion of 33 per cent.; whereas the number in the penitentiary and other gaols of Jamaica on the 31st of December last was, as will be perceived, 700; or assuming the population as 377,000, as in 1844, but 18 per cent.

24. Nor has crime increased in this island relatively to former years; for whilst the greatest number at any one time in confinement during 1853 was 1,080, it will be found never to have exceeded 919 in 1854; or, to take a more extended view, the "Blue Book" of 1845 shows the greatest number ten years ago, as 1,114, or 20 per cent. more than it is now. Nor is this diminution confined to minor offences, for the General Penitentiary, to which long-sentenced prisoners are sent, then contained 466 inmates, and the Female Penitentiary 28 more; whereas the number in custody on the 31st December last, in the two establishments (now combined) was only 385.

25. From the returns of that establishment, moreover, it will be seen that the great bulk of the crimes (261) consist of simple larceny, and that violent crimes against the person are rare, there having been but two convictions in the course of the year for murder, two for manslaughter, and four for rape. Even as regards the capital offences, I felt justified in commuting the sentences, with the full concurrence of the learned judges who had presided at the trials; in the one case on account of the extreme ignorance of the murderer, who, it was clearly proved, acted at the instigation of an "Obeah" man, to whose counsels he had recourse in a fit of jealousy, but who contrived to keep himself scatheless.

26. The comparison will be found equally favourable with respect to summary convictions; for the Consolidated Table of those before stipendiary magistrates shows an aggregate of only 4,514; or assuming an equal ratio for the six parishes destitute of such officers, 6,206 for the island, whereas I last year computed it on similar data at 6,708.

27. The returns as to charitable institutions are, as usual, blank, owing to their management having heretofore been left to Boards of Commissioners, whose officers were not responsible to government control; but as the members of the Executive Committee have now been associated in the charge of the public hospital and lunatic asylum, I trust next year to be enabled to furnish the particulars required in regard to these institutions.

Coins, Exchanges, &c.

28. Turning now to those heads which convey information as to the progress of commercial and agricultural affairs, it will seem from the first, which bears the above title, that the paper currency was last year augmented by nearly 50 per cent.,—say 54,000*l.* over the circulation of 1853,—owing to the fresh issue of island notes authorized by the 17th Vict. c. 30., with a view of meeting a portion of the arrearage accumulated from the suspension of payments for salaries, &c. in that year.

29. It is so far satisfactory to observe that the issues of the colonial and Jamaica banks, which are of course payable in specie on demand, were not contracted, despite this large addition of irredeemable paper, which at first threatened to create a monetary panic; and now that this unfair competition on the part of the State is about to be put an end to by the withdrawal of the island notes by means of the Parliamentary loan, there seems no reason why the circulation of these establishments should not fill up the gap thus occasioned to such an extent at least as is requisite to supply the legitimate wants of the trading community.

30. Much has been said, indeed, as to the necessity of the island continuing to maintain a paper currency of its own, based upon such a reserve of specie as would ensure its convertibility, and the Assembly has lately gone the length of affirming, nem. con., three abstract resolutions on the subject proposed by Mr. Girod, the editor of the "Colonial Standard;" but in my opinion the finances of the island will not for a long time to come be in a sufficiently solvent state, nor is confidence in the successful working of the new system of financial management yet sufficiently established to justify any fresh experiments of this sort, even were the importance of it much more urgent than in my view it is likely to prove.

31. Very exaggerated ideas, however, of the profits and benefits derivable from the issue of promissory notes by the State are still entertained out here, and the most unsound notions prevail as to the prosperity to be anticipated from such a creation of fictitious wealth; whilst, on the other hand, the strongest prejudices are entertained against the banks, the Colonial in particular, for having reduced their circulation of late years, in forgetfulness, apparently, of the contradiction involved in supposing that so gainful a business as the issue of paper has just been asserted to be, would be abandoned by these institutions for any other reason than the real one,—the falling off, namely, in the demand for accomodation from traders in good credit, arising from the unfortunate depression of the planters.

Imports and Exports.

32. The imports, which in 1853, notwithstanding the extreme distress of the country, were raised beyond those of 1852 by the absence of all duties, except an ad valorem rate of 2½ per cent., fell last year, owing to the glut thus occasioned, to less than one half of their then estimated value; but the aggregate value of the exports on the other hand exceeded that of either of the previous years, the comparative statement of both standing as under.

	Value of Imports.	Value of Exports.
1852 - - - -	£837,894	£927,377
1853 - - - -	864,094	837,276
1854 - - - -	403,520	932,316

Thus showing that my anticipations when forwarding the "Blue Book" of last year were correct, and especially as I was not too sanguine in predicting that the crop would turn out more remuneratively to the sugar planter than the one which preceded it.

33. In fact, the full extent of the improvement, so far as this class are concerned, is not shown by the aggregate figures here given; for there was a falling off in the export of coffee and some other articles, which reduced the amount of the increase on sugar and rum considerably, the increase on the latter article alone, consequent on a larger production, and the advance in its value occasioned by

the joint influence of a bad harvest in Europe, the disease in the vines, and the war, having been very nearly equal to 150,000*l.*

34. I wish I could speak with the same degree of confidence of the result of their operations for the present year; but the very wet weather which has prevailed since Christmas both affected the yielding of the canes and retarded their manufacture into produce, and the usual May rains have nevertheless set in with such intensity as to do great additional mischief to the roads and cultivation. Indeed, the "Colonial Standard" states to-day that the effect of the seasons is most deplorable, and cannot fail very materially to reduce the crops.

35. This is the more unfortunate, because there appears little prospect of the price of sugar rallying from its present almost unexampled depression, in the face of an addition of 50 per cent. to the tax on its importation into Great Britain imposed since this time last year, which must inevitably tend to check the consumption of the article, and as a necessary consequence lower its value.

36. Should this unfortunately prove true, some estates which I had hoped might be saved from abandonment will inevitably be thrown up in despair by their proprietors; but the confidence which I have expressed in the ability of the residue to weather the storm under almost any circumstances remains, nevertheless, unabated, and I am sanguine that the injury to the community at large resulting from the diminution of sugar cultivation, should it be destined to take place, will be to a great extent mitigated by the development of the other resources of the island, to which unusual attention is now turned through the exertions of the Local Society of Arts.

37. Bales of plantain fibre do not, it is true, yet figure in our Custom House returns, but large samples have been exported both to Great Britain and to the United States, and very encouraging reports received respecting their value; whilst the Commissioners of the General Penitentiary are about establishing a manufactory of paper from the refuse of the plant as a means of profitable employment for the convicts, and a model to be followed, I trust, by other parties who have capital sufficient for such a speculation.

38. From the mines, too, the latest accounts are of a most cheering description; and though the generally received opinion here is that mining will make the fortunes of a few individuals rather than resuscitate the expiring industry of the colony at large, I regard its success as of the utmost importance to the future of Jamaica, as tending to keep up that influx of capital and skilled labour, the withdrawal of which on the abandonment of sugar cultivation is so much to be dreaded.

39. I am aware that this is glancing at the brighter side of the picture, and that the actual position of affairs is still extremely critical; but it is at least satisfactory to find, upon this retrospect of the transactions of the past year, reliable evidence that they have grown no worse, and that the long dreaded epoch of the entire abolition of protecting duties on colonial products has passed by without producing so violent a shock as had been predicted.

40. If the continuance of political quietude can be ensured, and the finances be restored to solvency under the new system of government, I will not permit myself to despair of gradual and progressive improvement in the condition of the island of Jamaica.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY BARKLY.

The Right Hon. Lord John Russell,
&c. &c. &c.

TABULAR VIEW of the Number of PRISONERS received into the GENERAL PENITENTIARY from each COUNTY and PARISH from 1st January to the 31st December 1854.

COUNTY AND PARISH.	1 Horse Stealing.	2 Cattle Stealing.	3 Sheep Stealing.	4 Forgery.	5 Burglary.	6 Larceny.	7 False Pretences.	8 Embezzlement.	9 Assault with Intent.	10 Assault.	11 Riot and Assault.	12 Riot.	13 Rape.	14 Against Nature.	15 Attempting same.	16 Murder.	17 Manslaughter.	18 Cutting and Wounding.	19 Cutting and Maiming.	20 Cutting with Intent.	21 Maliciously Stabbing.	22 Highway Robbery.	23 Plundering from a Wreck.	24 Escape.	25 Receiving Stolen Goods.	26 Cutting down Trees.	27 Killing Cattle.	28 Killing Sheep.	29 Killing a Mule.	30 Killing a Mare.	31 Killing an Ass.	32 Maiming a Mule.	33 Rogue and Vagabond.	Total.
MIDDLESEX.																																		
Assize Courts	—	—	—	—	—	8	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	17
St. Catherine Quarter Sessions	—	—	—	—	—	23	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	26
St. Thos. ye Vale „ „	—	—	—	—	1	6	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	9
Clarendon „ „	—	—	—	—	—	14	—	—	6	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	25
Vere „ „	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
St. Mary „ „	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	4
Manchester „ „	—	—	—	—	5	13	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	24
St. Ann „ „	—	—	—	—	—	14	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	18
Total	—	—	—	—	6	81	—	—	8	—	—	—	2	1	—	1	—	6	1	4	2	1	—	—	4	4	—	1	1	—	—	—	1	124
SURREY.																																		
Assize Courts	1	—	—	4	—	8	—	—	1	—	4	3	2	2	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	29
Kingston Quarter Sessions	1	—	—	—	1	58	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	67
Port Royal „ „	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
St. Andrew „ „	1	—	—	—	3	16	3	1	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	33
St. Thos. ye East „ „	—	—	—	—	9	16	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	30
St. David „ „	1	—	—	—	—	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	6
Portland „ „	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	8
St. George „ „	—	—	—	—	—	6	1	—	1	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	15
Metcalfe „ „	—	—	—	—	—	6	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	6
Total	4	—	—	4	13	117	8	2	2	10	4	3	2	2	1	—	—	4	2	—	2	—	1	4	7	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	194
CORNWALL.																																		
Assize Courts	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	2	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	7
St. Elizabeth Quarter Sessions	—	—	—	—	—	34	2	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	44
Hanover „ „	—	—	—	—	—	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	6
Westmoreland „ „	2	—	—	—	1	15	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	1	24
Trelawny „ „	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
St. James „ „	—	—	—	—	—	8	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	8
Total	3	—	—	—	1	63	2	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	2	3	4	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	6	—	—	—	—	1	1	90
CAYMANAS ISLANDS.																																		
Assize Court	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
GRAND TOTAL	7	—	—	4	20	261	10	2	11	10	4	3	4	4	1	2	4	13	7	4	4	2	1	4	11	4	6	1	1	1	1	1	2	410

Statistical Table, General Penitentiary.

Year ending December 31, 1854.

Number in Custody, 385.

AGES.		COLOUR.		CRIMES.	
Under 17 years	13			Horse stealing	12
„ 25 „	28			Forgery	3
From 25 to 30	196	Black	337	Burglary	26
„ 30 to 40	118	Coloured	35	Larceny	346
Above 40 years	30	White	13	False pretences	13
				Embezzlement	1
Total	385	Total	385	Rape	3
				Assault with intent	9
State of Education.		**Country.**		Assault	5
				Riot	2
Could read on admission	113			Against nature	2
Are learning	53	Natives	329	Sodomy	2
Cannot read	219	Not natives	56	Murder	2
Total	385	Total	385	Manslaughter	5
				Cutting and wounding	21
				Highway robbery	2
				Escape	3
				Receiving stolen goods	8
				Killing cattle	2
				Killing ditto with intent	2
				Killing mule	1
				Killing a mare	1
				Killing an ass	1
				Maiming a mule	1
				Rogue and vagabond	1
				Military offences	11
				Total	385
Under sentence of transportation	15			Under sentence of imprisonment	370
Received from Courts of Assize during the year	55			Discharged during the year	340
„ „ Quarter Sessions	355			Transferred to district prisons	60
„ „ Courts martial	74			Released by the Governor	32
				Died during the year	42
Total	484			Total	474
Number of re-convictions during the year	84				

RETURN of CRIME for the Year ended 31st December 1854, as compiled from the Quarterly Reports received from the Stipendiary Magistrates.

Names of Districts.	Petty Thefts. 11 Vict. c. 8.	Trespasses. Furtive. 7 Will. 4. c. 41.	Trespasses. Common and Malicious. 7 Will. 4. c. 36. 14 Vict. c. 46.	Assaults on Collectors of Duties, &c., Police and other Officers. 15 Vict. c. 3., 16 Vict. c. 45.	Assaults on Women and Children. 17 Vict. c. 16.	Assaults, Common. 7 Will. 4. c. 14.	Cruelty to Animals. 5 Vict. c. 13.	Breach of Peace. 6 Will. 4. c. 17.	Breach of Contract.	Offences against: Rum Law.—17 Vict. c. 7.	Pound Law.—15 Vict. c. 11.	Highway Act.—14 Vict. c. 41.	Vestry Law.—11 Vict. c. 20.	Vagrancy Law.—3 Vict. c. 18.	Towns and Communities Act. 7 Vict. c. 14.	Masters and Servants Act. 5 Vict. c. 43.	Tradesmen's Act.—6 Vict. c. 38.	Public Markets Act.—9 Vict. c. 38.	Hawkers and Pedlars Act. 10 Vict. c. 37.	Gunpowder and Fire-arms Act. 17 Vict. c. 24.	Petty Debt Act.—16 Vict. c. 45.	Fisheries Act.—6 Vict. c. 39.	Weights and Measures Act. 6 Vict. c. 28.	Pilot Law.—15 Vict. c. 26.	Mutiny Act.—Annual.	Merchant Seaman's Act. 7 & 8 Vict. c. 112. 13 & 14 Vict. c. 93. 16 & 17 Vict. c. 131. British	Merchant Seaman's Act. 6 Will. 4. c. 32. Jamaica.	Total Number of Convictions.	Names of Stipendiary Magistrates.
Portland	10	2	5	–	–	22	–	–	2	–	–	–	–	–	47	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	86	Lake, Charles.
St. David	2	4	4	3	–	16	1	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	26	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	3	–	–	–	–	61	Fyfe, Alex. G.
Port Royal	4	2	1	11	–	26	–	–	–	–	3	–	–	–	33	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	1	–	–	81	Kent, Henry.
St. Andrew	13	–	6	5	–	83	2	–	–	2	2	–	1	2	125	10	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	1	–	260	Ewart, David.
Kingston	105	3	15	–	–	204	–	1	5	–	–	–	–	20	375	22	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	5	12	773	Willis, George, and Pryce, Samuel.
St. Catherine	15	4	6	–	2	70	–	–	–	–	2	–	–	3	154	6	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	2	–	–	264	Hill, Hon. R.
St. John	3	1	8	–	–	28	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	31	3	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	74	
St. Dorothy	7	9	7	1	–	13	–	–	–	1	1	–	–	–	34	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	73	Bell, W. A.
St. Thomas (Vale)	25	18	17	1	–	59	4	–	–	–	2	7	3	–	40	4	–	–	–	–	–	2	–	–	–	–	–	–	182	Jackson, T. W.
St. Mary	48	–	62	4	–	74	–	36	2	1	6	–	–	–	55	26	–	–	–	2	–	2	–	–	–	–	–	–	316	Walsh, Henry.
St. Ann	37	29	72	12	–	83	3	9	–	–	2	–	–	–	92	5	1	–	2	1	–	–	–	–	–	–	11	–	357	Dillon, T. A.
Clarendon	1	16	25	–	–	57	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	72	17	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	188	Crewe, Henry.
Manchester	55	5	56	–	–	89	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	101	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	306	Laidlaw, Henry.
St. Elizabeth	20	37	47	1	–	77	2	–	–	1	3	–	–	1	96	24	–	–	3	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	312	Rumbold, Sir C. A. H.
Trelawny	42	52	44	16	–	110	5	1	–	6	2	31	2	3	192	79	–	2	–	–	–	–	–	–	1	–	12	2	602	Emery, Robert, and Kelly, D. W.
St. James*	13	46	20	–	–	121	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	238	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	438	Chamberlaine, R.
Westmoreland†	7	8	14	–	–	51	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	61	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	141	Cocking, Ralph.
	407	244	409	54	2	1183	17	47	9	11	23	38	6	29	1772	196	1	2	5	1	4	3	–	2	3	28	14	4514	

* No Returns were furnished by Mr. Stip. Mag. Chamberlaine for the quarter ended 30th June 1854.
† Mr. Stip. Mag. Cocking died on 24th October 1854.

HUGH W. AUSTIN, Governor's Secretary.

No. 7.

JAMAICA.

Copy of a DESPATCH from Governor Sir Henry Barkly to the Right Hon. Lord John Russell.

(No. 84.) King's House, August 6, 1855.

My Lord, (Received September 6, 1855.)

No comparative statement of the exports of this island has been forwarded since that for the quarter and year ending 10th October last, the usual period to which the sugar crop is reckoned, which I enclosed in my despatch of the 15th November following (No. 114); but as I expressed very unfavourable anticipations as to the crop of the current year, in my despatch with the annual Blue Book*, it may be satisfactory for me to transmit the accompanying returns from the Customs, for the first three quarters of it, showing, as compared with the exports to 5th July 1854, a far smaller reduction from the effects of the wet weather than I was prepared for.

*No. 59, May 21, 1855. Page Encls. A. and B.

The decrease amounts to 2,200 hogsheads of sugar, but this is greatly counterbalanced by an increase of 1,200 puncheons of rum, the more valuable article of the two, under present circumstances.

As a great deal of produce remains to be manufactured, and the weather is now extremely fine, I trust there will be no deficiency at all by the 10th October next.

The price of sugar, too, having risen in the home market, owing to short crops in Louisiana and Cuba, and the rapid decline of beet-root culture in France, I am in hopes that many planters will be encouraged to put in canes for another year, who might not otherwise have struggled on.

The shipments of pimento have been 1,300,000 lbs. in excess, but there is on the other hand a trifling deficit of nearly 300,000 lbs. on coffee, an article of about equal value.

Of the minor staples, ginger has nearly doubled itself in quantity, whilst most of the rest show but trivial variations.

Altogether I am enabled to take a more cheering view of the agricultural prospects of the island than I could do three months back, and to report that its difficulties and drawbacks in that respect are at any rate not increasing.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY BARKLY.

The Right Hon. Lord John Russell,
&c. &c. &c.

(Enclosure A. in No. 2.)

PORT OF KINGSTON, JAMAICA.

A RETURN showing the principal Staple Articles exported from this Island during the Quarters ended 5th January, 5th April, and 5th July, 1854.

—	Sugar.	Rum.	Molasses.	Cotton.	Pimento.	Ginger.	Arrow-root.	Logwood.	Fustic.	Lance-wood Spars.	Mahogany and other Woods.	Succades.	Santa or Shrub.	Honey.	Bees' Wax.	Cocoanuts.	Coffee.	Lignum Vitæ and Ebony.	Copper Ore.
Quarters ended—	Hhds.	Phns.	Casks.	Lbs.	L bs.	Lbs.	Lbs.	Tons.	Tons.	No.	Tons. Feet.	Cwts. qrs. lbs.	Gallons.	Gallons.	Cwts. qrs. lbs.	No.	Lbs.	Tons.	Tons.
5th January 1854	1,750	858	—	1,760	1,882,537	35,086	5,064	671	116	1,512	0 12,300	40 1 4	—	690	100 2 23	27,800	187,018	36	5
5th April „	8,182	3,275	—	540	1,105,615	95,824	43,506	1,648	203	3,093	5 14,520	50 2 2	30	1,148	96 1 1	142,496	2,730,209	2	5
5th July „	9,881½	5,212	2	1,600	326,215	283,558	46,065	1,183	158	1,679	0 9,581	90 3 25	48	4,241	82 1 4	95,589	1,902,226	33	26
Total -	19,813½	9,345	2	3,900	3,314,367	414,468	94,635	3,502	477	6,284	5 36,401	181 3 3	78	6,079	279 1 0	265,885	4,819,453	71	36

Custom House, Kingston, Jamaica,
2d August 1855.

W. G. FREEMAN, Collector.
R. B. BERRY, Comptroller.

(Enclosure B. in No. 2.)

PORT OF KINGSTON, JAMAICA.

A RETURN showing the principal Staple Exports from this Island during the Quarters ended 5th January, 5th April, and 5th July, 1855.

—	Sugar.	Rum.	Molasses.	Cotton.	Coffee.	Pimento.	Ginger.	Arrow-root.	Logwood.	Fustic.	Lance-wood Spars.	Mahogany and other Woods.	Succades.	Santa or Shrub.	Honey.	Bees' Wax.	Cocoanuts.	Lignum Vitæ and Ebony.	Copper Ore.
Quarters ended—	Hhds.	Phns.	Casks.	Lbs.	Lbs.	Lbs.	Lbs.	Lbs.	Tons.	Tons.	No.	Tons. Feet.	Cwts. qrs. lbs.	Gallons.	Gallons.	Cwts. qrs. lbs.	No.	Tons.	Tons.
5th January 1855	653	564	—	—	319,211	2,289,344	3,412	1,428	1,686	82	133	—	30 3 26	—	1	32 3 9	38,000	1	20
5th April „	7,138	3,993	—	280	1,777,606	2,011,660	27,488	30,623	1,921	255	1,005	0 71,690	57 2 17	42	1,496	154 1 17	197,151	81	$\frac{9}{20}$
5th July „	9,817	6,001	—	—	2,431,293	372,319	152,268	29,577	2,638	290	1,559	8 2,500	77 0 2	55	3,300	299 2 14	148,030	31	9
Total -	17,608	10,558	—	280	4,528,110	4,673,323	183,168	61,628	6,245	627	2,697	8 74,190	165 2 17	97	4,797	486 3 12	383,181	113	$29\frac{9}{20}$

Custom House, Kingston, Jamaica,
31st July 1855.

W. G. FREEMAN, Collector.
R. B. BERRY, Comptroller.

HONDURAS.

No. 8.

Copy of a DESPATCH from Governor Sir Henry Barkly to the Right Hon. Lord John Russell.

(No. 21.) King's House, Jamaica, July 5, 1855.

My Lord, (Received, August 4, 1855.)

I have the honour to transmit the Honduras Blue Book for the year 1854, together with Mr. Stevenson's Report, intended to accompany it.

I likewise enclose a Despatch subsequently written by him, in forwarding an interesting description of the northern district of the settlement, communicated by its stipendiary magistrate, Mr. Burke.

Your Lordship will be glad to observe that the trade of Belize is rapidly increasing in importance, not only through the larger exportation of mahogany, but from its becoming an entrepôt for the cochineal, indigo, cigars, sarsaparilla, &c. produced in the neighbouring states of Central America.

The northern district, too, which embraces a rich tract of country bordering on the province of Yucatan, seems destined to prove an admirable field for the cultivation of tropical produce, in proportion as population is attracted to it by the greater security for life and property offered under the British than under the Mexican flag.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HENRY BARKLY,

Governor.

The Right Hon. Lord John Russell,
&c. &c. &c.

Enclosure 1 in No. 8.

Report on the Blue Book of British Honduras for 1854.

Taxes and Duties.

There were no material changes in this department during last year.

Fees.

Neither were there any alterations in the Schedules of Fees.

Revenue and Expenditure.

There would appear from the statement under this head to have been an increase in last year's revenue of 8,621*l.*, whereas, in fact, the increase was little more than 2,500*l.*; and the reason I gave last year for the apparent, though unreal difference, is equally applicable to the present year, and will be to next year's statements also, namely, the transfer to 1854 of the credit papers of 1853, instead of the entry of those papers as applicable to the current year.

But as the suggestion of my predecessor in favour of that change was not found convenient, an alteration has been again made to the former system.

The amount, therefore, of 3,046*l.*, which appears at page 18 as the "amount of promissory notes of 1853," must be deducted from the apparent revenue of 1854, and added to that of the previous year, when the real difference of about 2,500*l.* will appear as the result of the altered duties of 1854.

The balance in favour of the public at the end of 1854 was principally applicable to public works in progress and in contemplation, and has since been so applied as the works have been proceeded with.

Public Works.

The progress of the public works was very much retarded last year, in consequence of the want of skilled labour and necessary materials; and the calamitous fire of last August, which destroyed the gaol and some other public

HONDURAS.

property, rendered it necessary to abandon all the intended improvements on that prison, and to build an entirely new one on a different site and on a much larger scale. Many of these works, however, are now in progress, and arrangements have been made for the construction of others.

Legislation.

Although the new constitution law had come into operation, and a great improvement had been made in the legislative body, yet no measure of any great public importance was introduced last year at the first session of the newly-constituted body, the then acting Superintendent having expressed a desire that all such measures should await the arrival of the new Superintendent, then shortly expected. No laws of a broad constitutional character were, therefore, passed last year; but they formed the subject of the present year's legislation, and will appear in the next Blue Book.

The only laws which passed last year were the following, being the Acts of the second session of 17 Vict.:—

No. 5. The usual annual law to impose taxes and duties for the financial year.

No. 6. Relating to officers of the new Assembly.

No. 7. To amend a Fine Act, as regards the service on juries.

No. 8. Regulating the charges of drayage and cartage in the town.

No. 9. For better collection of the customs revenues.

This is a re-enactment of the late law, then about to expire, with some few alterations, to be found in clauses 24, 26, and 29.

The 24th clause now affects dutiable articles introduced into any port or place in the settlement, with enforcement of declaration of produce or seizure on refusal. The latter part of clause 26 authorizes the forfeiture of certain prohibited articles; and the 29th clause inflicts a fine for violation of the Act by carelessness or neglect without apparent intention to defraud the revenue. The Act has since been amended during the session of the present year, on the suggestion of the Secretary of State, in respect to the 9th and 12th clauses relating to "manifests."

No. 10. To protect the community from the practices of pretended professors of medicine.

I reported fully on this Act, when it fell to my duty on my arrival here to transmit it to the Secretary of State in my Despatch, "Legislative, No. 13, of 17th March 1854," and mentioned what I had understood to be the occasion of its introduction; and I also noticed the two objectionable points which appeared to me to be contained in the Act; one being, that the prohibition to practise was not confined to practice for pay; the other being, that the "due and legal qualification" required was not defined.

Some such Act, properly drawn and directed, would, no doubt, be beneficial in this, as in any other community; but the Act is at present unworkable, being impotent in its good intentions, and harmless in its objectionable features. It may probably be the subject of future amendment.

No. 11. To compel owners of land to fill in the same, and for other purposes.

This Act has altogether a sanitary object. The town is built on low swampy land; many of the allotments in the very heart of the town being often covered with stagnant and fœtid water; and the old laws of the place requiring the owners to keep them properly filled up, the conditions also of the original grants require them to do so on pain of forfeiture; so that, however arbitrary the requirement might appear, it is, notwithstanding, necessary under the circumstances, as well as obligatory by existing laws, of which the present is little more than a re-enactment.

Authority is also given under the last clause to lay out a new street with the same sanitary object.

Council and Assembly.

In pursuance of the new Constitution Act, and under the authority of Royal Instructions, the new Executive Council was formed last year, consisting of the Colonial Secretary, the Public Treasurer, and three private gentlemen; the Attorney General, who is one of the intended official members, not having been appointed since my arrival here.

The Council are joined with the Superintendent in the duty of regulating the faithful expenditure of all the votes and appropriations of the legislature, and are empowered to act as advisers of the Superintendent in any matters of executive policy or inquiry on which he may think proper to consult them.

A standing committee of the whole Council has been appointed for the ordinary examination of accounts, and through their hands all public accounts and vouchers pass in the first instance before payment is made. As a fixed rule, the Superintendent and Council meet once a month to report on all these matters of account, and to pass those already acquiesced in, and adjust any question about others. And then, and upon such other occasions as may be necessary, they transact any other executive business which the Superintendent brings to their notice.

The new Assembly consists of eighteen elected members, and three chosen by the Superintendent, in all twenty-one members ; the former "public meeting" having been composed of an irregular body of about sixty persons.

The public business brought before the new legislature last year was not of a character to show any improvement in their powers of legislation ; but many measures have since been passed which called for a great deal of careful legislative consideration and judgment, the result of which has shown the constitutional change to be a decided improvement on the former system of transacting legislative business.

Civil Establishment.

There are some few changes in the arrangements of this department which I think would be very advantageous to the public, and which it is hoped may soon be accomplished, as they easily may be without much, or perhaps any, additional expense. With one or two exceptions, there are quite as many offices and departments as are necessary for the public service ; but in some cases there are too many of them centred in the same official person. This plurality of offices may be allowable here, to some extent, where the duties of a single department may be too light to justify the payment of much salary, and where the small salary would not be sufficient for the support of the holder of a single office ; but there should be some slight re-adjustment of offices, in which all plural appointments should be only of consistent or congruous offices, and to each of which the specific salary should be attached and the duties defined. The result of this arrangement would be, that if a holder of a plurality of offices misconducted himself in any one office, or showed his unfitness for the performance of its functions, he might be removed from that office without being affected in his others ; whereas now, where several are held under one appointment or contract with the public, and to be performed for one salary, any removal from one would be necessarily a removal from all, and this might not always be just towards the holder of the offices.

Where, as is sometimes the case, a dereliction of duty or inefficiency of service occurs in any one of these plural offices, the excuse offered is that the duties of other offices occurring simultaneously occasion the cause of complaint ; and the result is, that either such excuse must be allowed and inefficient services sanctioned, or the holder must be visited with punishment by the loss of all his offices.

This inconvenience is, in some cases, traceable to the changes that have taken place in most of the original institutions of the country where no corresponding alterations have been made in the machinery. For instance, the "magistrates" were originally the ruling executive power, and at the same time were at the head of the civil and criminal courts as well as of the prerogative and ordinary courts, formed a sort of municipal corporation, and were at the same time the leading persons in the "public meeting." They had one "clerk," and as they could only sit in one place at one time, their clerk always accompanied them, and found no inconvenience in those days in doing the work of all the departments.

Now these magistrates have ceased, and their functions are divided ; and the present functionaries sometimes act simultaneously, though always separately, but still with only one clerk, and hence the difficulty ; the present clerk being clerk of all the criminal and civil courts, and of the court of ordinary, keeper of the public records, clerk of the Legislative Assembly, and other minor

HONDURAS.

offices, all of which he holds under one appointment and for one salary, which, however, is a very adequate one, and might be easily subdivided.

Another serious difficulty in these cases is this, that although a second or even a third office, when added to one of primary importance, may not at first give much additional duty; yet, as the duties of the second or third office are liable to be increased, they become in such case so great an embarrassment on the time of the holder as to press seriously on his primary duties, which must either become neglected or inefficiently performed, or the superadded duties must become so, and in any case the public service is affected by the inconvenience.

I may instance in this latter case the department of the Colonial Secretary, who is also Clerk of the Council, and has various other isolated as well as connected duties thrown upon him. All these are very well, because they are very much of the same character; but then he is also "Controller of the Customs," the duties of which, in the first instance, were not very heavy, but have since exceedingly increased, and are still increasing, by various local laws and requirements, as well as by imperial laws relating to shipping and customs duties. The consequence is, that if all these additional duties are to be efficiently performed, the primary duties of Secretary and Clerk of the Council must necessarily be impaired, or to some extent excused, as is the case at present; added to which, in the event of that officer being called upon to act in the leading executive department during any temporary absence of the Superintendent, although he may always continue (with assistance) his primary office of "secretary," he cannot perform the duties of "controller;" neither can he be sure of finding, on the occasion of the moment, an efficient substitute for that office, supernumerary or unemployed persons being very rare in this place.

It is my intention, however, to bring these points of difficulty before a future session of the Assembly; and no doubt such changes as are necessary will be produced.

Great inconvenience has been felt by the Executive by the want of an "Attorney General," no such officer having been appointed during the whole of last year, and none being yet appointed. The reason is, that under an existing law, which was passed in 1847, an Attorney General was authorized to be appointed, but was restricted from practising in any of the courts otherwise than in Crown matters; and for the last two years, since the vacancy occurred, attempts have been made to confine the appointment of that officer to a barrister of some practice in the common law courts, giving an increasd salary, but preserving the former restriction as to non-practice. This, however, has been objected to by the Government as in some degree crippling the prerogative, and the last bill on the subject is now before the Secretary of State for consideration.

In other respects the civil establishment was sufficiently complete last year, and still continues so. Some of the secondary offices, which have been superadded to primary appointments, such as collector and comptroller of customs, clerk of Council, &c. &c., do not appear in the tables, those offices having no salaries attached to them.

Education.

The scheme of education, under the aid of public funds, continued the same last year as during the previous year.

The returns at pages 142–3 show that out of the estimated permanent population of about 4,500 in the town of Belize about 586 children were educated by the public at the expense of about 929*l.*, while about 100 others were educated by the Baptists, who accept no aid from the public funds.

Since the commencement of this year an arrangement has been made for providing a master of an "infant school" about to be established; but the master nor having yet arrived, the benefit of that improvement has not yet been experienced.

There will probably be other changes made for the benefit of the scheme of education, which, from the want of good teachers, as well as from an insufficiency of funds for all the objects to be desired, is far from being perfect, although in a fair state of advancement.

It is with the greatest difficulty that the parents can be induced to pay anything, however insignificant, as a contribution towards the instruction of their children. The advantages of education are not yet sufficiently appreciated by them to be regarded as a purchaseable necessary; and although given gratuitously, it is in many cases only accepted when convenient, the children of some parents being frequently withdrawn from the schools for weeks at a time, and sent into the country, or employed elsewhere, to the great interruption of their studies, and the detriment also of the other scholars in the same classes. However, this is not a very general practice; and it seems to be remarked, and the attendances at the schools likewise show, that the desire for the education of children is increasing among the parents, and that among the more steady and intelligent of the children there is as much advancement as could be reasonably expected from the limited machinery and materials of instruction; while it must be confessed that, from the same cause, the general advancement of the children, as well as the discipline and system in the schools, are far inferior (as might be expected) to English schools of corresponding character.

Imports and Exports.

The imports of 1854 over 1853 from Great Britain have increased by upwards of 31,600*l.*, and from the United States they have increased by upwards of 17,000*l.*, while from the West Indies and the Central States they have considerably decreased; but the general imports of last year over the previous year were increased by upwards of 43,500*l.* sterling.

The exports of 1854 over 1853 to Great Britain exceeded 108,000*l.*, and those to the foreign states were likewise increased, while those to the United States decreased to the amount of 7,000*l.* But the general exports of last year over those of the previous year were increased by upwards of 106,900*l.* sterling.

Of the principal staples of the country, namely, logwood and mahogany, there was no material difference between the two last years' exports of logwood; but the mahogany exported last year exceeded that of the previous year by upwards of a million feet.

It may be remarked that many items of export which appear in the tables, such as cochineal, indigo, cigars, sarsaparilla, &c., are not the productions of this country, but are either purchased by the merchants, or received by them as payments, or transmitted from the neighbouring states for shipmen t to Europe. Perhaps these articles should properly appear under corresponding items in the table of imports.

Gaols and Prisoners.

The total destruction of the gaol in August last year rendered it necessary that temporary accommodation should be provided for the prisoners, and they have accordingly been placed, in convenient classes, in two large and commodious buildings in a favourable situation in the town. One of these buildings, which had at one time been used as a lunatic asylum and public dispensary, but which entirely failed in both objects, has now been given up to the public, with a large area on which the buildings stand, as the site of the new prison which is about to be erected, upon condition that a new and satisfactory arrangement is made in a wing of the new house or otherwise for the reception of "criminal lunatics."

In these temporary buildings all the details of prison discipline have been very satisfactorily carried out.

I have, &c.

(Signed) WILLIAM STEVENSON,
H.M. Superintendent.

Government House, Belize,
June 12, 1855.

HONDURAS.

(No. 46.) Government House, Belize,

SIR, June 15, 1855.

IN my Despatch of the 18th of January last I mentioned that I had requested Mr. Bourke, the recently appointed magistrate of the northern district of this settlement, to make me as early and as full a report as he could of the state of the country and population within his jurisdiction.

I have only this day received that report, of which I have now the honour to enclose a copy; and had I not already closed my Report of the Blue Book, which will be transmitted by the present packet, I should have added some few remarks on the subject of this remote district of the settlement. However, I may myself chance to become personally acquainted with it by-and-by, when I shall have a better opportunity of making statements as the result of my own observation.

But the report is not without considerable interest, as having reference to a comparatively new class of settlers, and to a country which has only been recently put to trial for its agricultural value.

The country chiefly spoken of in the report is at the northern limit of the settlement, where it binds on Yucatan, now in the state of Mexico; and the people spoken of are for the most part Yucatican refugees and immigrants, following the peaceful but profitable occupation of agriculture, at the same time that they are valuable aids to the mahogany and logwood cutters, and tolerably quiet villagers. They pursue, of course, their native and religious habits of sabbath festivity and holiday making, running sometimes into excess in gambling, drinking, and cock-fighting; but all these pursuits must be slow in their change; and when one or two schools have been founded, which I am endeavouring to establish in some of those villages, and the corrective check of magisterial authority and municipal order becomes appreciated, I have no doubt but that the northern district will become the most valuable portion of the settlement. Its productive capabilities are already acknowledged to be excellent for every variety of tropical cultivation; and if the settlers could only be assured of their security in the pursuit of agriculture, it is probable that those parts of this settlement would soon be made to prove their fertility in the production of some of the most valued articles of commerce.

Believing that you would like to know something of this little-known part of British Honduras, I have sent you a hasty copy of the report, with these few hurried remarks of my own.

I have, &c.

(Signed) WILLIAM STEVENSON.

Governor Sir H. Barkly, K.C.B.

SIR, Corosal, Northern District, May 28, 1855.

I HAVE the honour to lay before your Excellency a report of the present state of the northern district, founded on my own observation, and intercourse both private and official, with the inhabitants, and on information afforded by persons of undoubted veracity.

The territorial extent of this portion of the settlement is very considerable; it contains sixteen villages, which at a very low estimate number in the aggregate between five and six thousand inhabitants. These villages are built either on the seashore or on the banks of the Northern, the New River, or the Hondo. The first in importance is Corosal, whose population, ascertained by a census completed a day or two ago, is two thousand; and the second, San Esteban, on the New River, which has a population, also ascertained, of eleven hundred and thirty souls. In the Northern River there are fewer settlements, and these of inconsiderable size; their population may be fairly estimated at five hundred.

Almost all communications between the several portions of this district is by water. This is a source of very great inconvenience, occasioning serious delay in travelling, and the transit of goods. For example, a journey to the village of Cocos, which may be performed by land in seven or eight hours, occupies forty-eight hours by water. I cannot say that any attempt has been made to apply a remedy, either by putting the roads already laid out into a serviceable condition, or by laying out new ones. In their present state they are mere bridle tracks, and even as such can only be used during one half of the year, the rains during the remaining half rendering them totally impassable. It may be

proper to add, that no labour is bestowed upon these roads, except once a month, on Fauna day, when each male inhabitant, either personally or by substitute, is supposed to assist in clearing away overhanging bushes or branches of trees.

With few exceptions, the fixed settlers are engaged in agricultural pursuits. Indian corn, which constitutes the principal, if not the sole article of food, is grown in quantities sufficiently large for this purpose, and also to assist very materially in supplying the Belize market. Ground provisions are produced in abundance, whilst sufficient tobacco and rice are grown, to prove satisfactorily that these articles may be as easily and as largely produced as the former. The sugar cane is also cultivated to a considerable extent, and every year adds to the number of persons engaged in the manufacture of sugar, and distillation of rum and aniseed. I cannot speak with certainty of the quantity of either made in the district. A reference to the amount of revenue raised on brown sugar and spirits imported into this settlement during the year 1852, when the cultivation of sugar began in the district, and during the two consecutive years, would throw some light on the subject; but I have not as yet been able to procure the requisite information. It seems agreed, however, that the quantity is nearly equal to and might soon be brought to exceed considerably, the consumption of one of those articles at least, sugar, in the settlement, without diminishing the quantity of spirits now manufactured.

To effect this, a little skill, and the aid of good machinery, are all that is necessary. Very indifferent wooden mills are at present in use. So very imperfect is the pressure effected in these mills, that fully fifteen per cent. of cane juice is lost. The boiling process seems also very defective. The skimmings are thrown away, or applied to the feeding of pigs, and the molasses are made into cakes, which are sold in the settlement, so that neither the one nor the other is used for the purposes of distillation. Rum and aniseed are distilled from panela; this substance is sugar in process of manufacture, which, having nearly reached the granulating point, is taken from the boiler and beaten till it becomes a solid, hard mass. For every barrel of sugar manufactured, fifteen of panela are made. If, therefore, all the latter were converted into sugar, it is manifest that the supply of this article would exceed the demand; whilst a quantity of spirits fully equal to that at present made might be obtained from the skimmings and molasses as elsewhere. With regard to the existing mode of manufacture, a very careful observation of it has led me to the conclusion that the sugar planters, from want of skill and suitable machinery, incur a loss of forty-five or fifty per cent. at a very moderate calculation. The sugar, notwithstanding, is of excellent quality, and commands from 24*s*. to 28*s*. sterling in the markets of the settlement. This must be a highly remunerative price, as I am informed, on good authority, that 16*s*. or 20*s*. would yield a fair profit.

Indians constitute the greatest proportion of the labouring population. They are a strong, hardy, patient, and submissive class, but much addicted to drunkenness. Their wages are about ninepence per day, payable one half in goods, (of which aniseed, made frequently on the plantations, constitutes a considerable portion,) and the other half in money. Spirits being thus so easily obtainable, it does not seem surprising that those who incline to intemperance should be led into excess.

Of the state of crime in the district, I can form no opinion, having no data for my guidance. During nearly six months, all the cases I have adjudicated have been principally offences against the person or the public peace, and have not exceeded twenty-one in number.

The constabulary force of the district is very small among so large a population; three constables are certainly an insufficient quota.

The illicit sale of spirits is extensively practised.

Smuggling is carried on to a considerable extent; cattle, horses, and mules are brought across the Hondo from the Spanish settlements, and by some of the numerous tracks between that river and the New River are taken to some of the settlements on the latter, and there readily disposed of.

There are no schools in the district, and considerably the largest proportion of the inhabitants are so uneducated as to be unable either to read or write. The religious as well as the secular culture of their minds seems almost equally uncared for, as they are entirely without religious instruction, except what they may receive during a few transient visits of some Roman Catholic clergymen.

That they should be highly vicious and immoral seems only a natural consequence. Concubinage is common, and complaints by husbands of infidelity on the part of their wives, who leave their protection to live with other individuals, are numerous; not to mention cases of the like nature which, although of public notoriety, are not brought under the notice of the magistrate.

Gambling is a vice very generally prevalent, and, with cock-fighting and dancing, commonly practised on the Sabbath, which is totally disregarded.

The measure of protection afforded by the law to person and property appears satisfactory; and an Act passed during the last public meeting, to amend the law relative to contracts for hire, as well as those for the summary disposal of petty thefts, and to improve the constitution of the police and summary courts, which increases the jurisdiction of the magistrate over all demands for unliquidated damages, from six to ten pounds sterling, are highly appreciated. The act to amend the Marriage Act of 1852 has not yet become

HONDURAS.

generally known, but it seems admirably adapted to answer the end designed, namely, to facilitate marriages amongst persons living in parts of the settlement remote from Belize.

Thus to legislate for the protection of life and property, and the maintenance of peace and good order, is obviously calculated to promote the well-being of society, to increase the confidence of the present settlers, to induce others of their countrymen to seek an asylum where they may live in peace and security, and by these means to increase the number of effective agricultural labourers, an object of no inconsiderable importance in a country where labour is so scarce.

But there are objects of paramount importance which seem to demand from the humanity and benevolence of an enlightened government immediate attention, and without which the best directed efforts of legislation may prove vain or abortive. Foremost in this rank is the education of the people, secular as well as religious, and, next, the adoption of such measures as may be best calculated to develop the resources of the country, and to encourage agriculture. But pre-eminently important is the first of these objects, on the attainment of which depend the elevation of these persons to their proper rank in the scale of civilization, their value and usefulness as citizens and subjects, and what is of infinitely greater moment than either of these, their everlasting welfare.

I have, &c.
(Signed) E. BURKE,
Magistrate, North District.

His Excellency William Stevenson,
Her Majesty's Superintendent, &c. &c., Belize.

BAY ISLANDS.

BAY ISLANDS.

[*The usual Annual Report has not been received for Bay Islands.*]

BAHAMAS.

No. 9.

BAHAMAS.

No. 9.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor Sir A. BANNERMAN to the Right Hon. Lord JOHN RUSSELL.

(No. 27.) Government House, Nassau, N.P., Bahamas, May 11, 1855.
(Received June 16, 1855.)

MY LORD,

I HAVE the honour herewith to transmit the "Blue Book" of the Bahamas Government for the year 1854, accompanied by a report thereon by Mr. Nesbitt, Colonial Secretary, who administered this government to the 10th October of that year.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. BANNERMAN,
Governor.

The Right Hon. Lord John Russell,
&c. &c. &c.

REPORT of C. R. NESBITT, Esq., Colonial Secretary and Administrator of the Government.

1. *Taxes, Duties, &c. as Sources of Revenue.*

17 Vict. c. 2.

The duties here specified came into operation under the Act quoted, and approved of by Her Majesty in Council on the 1st of April 1854.

There was a reduction on the duty on flour imported of upwards of two fifths of the previous duty, and the duty on Indian corn, peas, beans, poultry, &c., was entirely remitted, and on other articles of food and consumption considerably modified; to counterpoise the revenue, however, an addition of ten per cent. was made to the ad valorem duties, on regularly imported manufactured unenumerated articles, and of 15 per cent. on similar articles, otherwise introduced into the colony, not specially exempted.

2. *Revenue.*

The return of revenue for 1854 exhibits the gross amount as 25,966*l.* 0*s.* 8*d.*, while for 1853 the return shows 29,212*l.* 11*s.* 3*d.*, and thus exhibits an apparent decrease of 3,246*l.* 10*s.* 7*d.*

This decrease may be partially accounted for—

1. By the following sum being entered as revenue for 1853, namely, 1,272*l.* 0*s.* 9*d.*, balance of the debt due by the Turks Islands Government to the Bahama Government.

2. In 1853 the export duty on salt produced 600*l.* 16*s.* 5*d.* This export duty ceased on the 31st March 1854, and the credit for the produce of such duty in 1854 up to that period was only 163*l.* 8*s.* 8*d.*

3. There is a difference in the amount of interest paid in by the public bank as revenue, namely, in 1853 the amount so credited was 500*l.*, whereas in 1854 it was only 200*l.*; but the 500*l.* credited, though made up in the year 1853, embraced interest accruing during a longer period than one year.

4. The following amounts are entered in 1853 as revenue, which, strictly speaking, were incidental payments to be credited, but not to be taken into the annual comparison as revenue, namely,

	£	*s.*	*d.*
The resumption of an unexpended balance voted for inclosing cemetery of Grant's Town - - - -	22	19	10
Do. of funds placed at disposal of Board of Health -	1	4	5
Proceeds of sale of land at Albert's Town (to be repaid owners when known and claimed) - - - -	55	10	4
	79	14	7

5. The reduction of one moiety of the specific duty on rye flour, and on meal, for nine months of the year 1854, may more than account for the reduction in the proceeds of that duty from 191*l.* 1*s.* to 91*l.* 8*s.* 9*d.*

6. The modification of the duty on wheat flour by a reduction of two fifths of the specific duty for nine months of the year 1854 may account for the reduction of about 1,000*l.*

The reduction of the duty on salt fish of upwards of a moiety, and on some species of five eighths, may also account for the diminution of revenue on this article; while the reduction of the duty on certain lamp oils, which operated nearly as a prohibition, exhibits an increase of duty on oils from 116*l.* 13*s.* to 595*l.* 19*s.* 7*d.*

The reduction of the duty on sugar causes a deficiency to be exhibited in this article of revenue of 554*l.* 15*s.* 2*d.*

The ad valorem duties, if put altogether, do not exhibit much difference in the two years, although the nominal rate for nine months of 1854 was considerably beyond that of 1853. This increase may have had temporarily the effect of producing fewer importations until the old stocks were consumed; and practically, the ad valorem revenue cannot be estimated by regular importations entirely, as the quantity of wrecked merchandise, which is very variable and fluctuating, enters largely into the estimation when calculating the probable amount of ad valorem duties.

On the whole, the new tariff has been sufficiently productive to meet the exigencies of the colonial exchequer, though nine months can scarcely be considered an adequate test of its productiveness. The lowering of the duty on flour, corn, &c. has not had the effect of creating increased consumption of those articles, inasmuch as the high price of provisions in the United States and elsewhere, during the year 1854, has probably more than counteracted the effect of such reduction in ordinary years, while the casualty of the monopoly of provisions at Nassau in limited hands has probably kept up the market price (and thus checked consumption) considerably beyond what even the enhanced prices current of provisions in the neighbouring states would have established, with more frequent communication, and, consequently, freer commercial competition.

Expenditure.

The expenditure exhibits an increase of 1,497*l.* 3*s.* 5*d.*, but of this amount 987*l.* 4*s.* 10*d.* is chargeable to the visitation of cholera in two previous years; 134*l.* 7*s.* 8*d.* is a part of the public debt paid off. An increase in the annual

BAHAMAS.

amount voted to the Education Board, per 17 Vict. cap. 15., and the provision for the appointment of a police magistrate at Harbour Island, per 17 Vict. cap. 17., may account for the remainder, without pursuing the inquiry further.

At page 42, the present debt of the colony is stated to be 18,390*l.* 13*s.* 5*d.*, on interest at 5*l.* per 100*l.*, payable quarterly; it has been reduced, as before stated, by the payment of 134*l.* 7*s.* 8*d.* The reductions of the above debt from time to time have been effected by remittances of the sum of 8,000*l.* assumed by the colony of Turks Islands as its quota on its separation from this Government.

The detailed statement of the public debt is for the first time stated in the Blue Book at page 50, previous Blue Books not having a printed form provided for such statement; this, with the revenue and expenditure returns, are made up at the Public Treasury.

At page 64, the civil engineer, in compliance with the circular Despatch from the Secretary of State of 9th August 1854, has made a special report relative to the state of repair of Government House and premises, including the furniture, and the means to guard against damages by fire.

Legislation.

A separate report accompanied the Acts assented to in the months of January and March 1854, when they were transmitted to the Secretary of State.

At page 76, a new return, under the head of "Political Franchise," is furnished, showing the colony to have 13 electoral divisions, 28 representatives, and 4,829 registered electors, of whom 1,657 voted at the last general election.

Imports and Exports.

The sum total of exports in 1853 was (page 191) estimated at 78,403*l.*, while those of 1854 were estimated at 69,502*l.* Of this reduction in exports, about a moiety occurs in reference to Great Britain, and the rest to other parts of the world.

This may be partially accounted for by the diminished crops of fruit consequent on the damages sustained by the pine and orange orchards by the gale of November 1853, and the diminished salt crops in 1854, on all the salt producing islands except Magera.

The total value of imports in 1854 and the previous year vary very little in the official return, the year 1853 being estimated at (page 183) 131,007*l.*, while those for 1854 are estimated at 131,995*l.*: while, however, the return exhibits an increase in the imports from the United States, it also exhibits a considerable falling off of the imports from the United Kingdom. But owing to the number of vessels wrecked in the Bahamas, principally with merchandise from the United States, which necessarily interferes with the importation of similar goods from Great Britain, the latter importations necessarily fluctuate.

At page 204, under a new head of return introduced, viz., "Remarks on Squatting," these remarks pointing out the mode of checking it in the Bahamas, are made by the Surveyor General of the colony.

At page 216, under the new head "Charitable Institutions," it will be seen that the number of paupers in the year 1854 was 146, of whom 40 were inmates of the New Providence Asylum.

In the recapitulation it appears, at page 142, that 3,105*l.* was paid in 1854 by Great Britain (exclusive of lighthouses and military expenditure), and 26,259*l.* 0*s.* 3*d.* by the colony.

(Signed) C. R. NESBITT,
Colonial Secretary and Administrator of the Government to 10th Oct. 1854.

Government House, Nassau, May 1855.

Having been appointed Governor of the Bahamas on the 7th June 1854, and assumed the government of the colony on the 10th of October of the same year, I postpone, until a future opportunity, to offer any observations on the state of the colony.

A. BANNERMAN,
Governor.

TURKS ISLANDS.

[*The usual Annual Report has not been received from Turks Islands.*]

TRINIDAD.

No. 10.

No. 10.

Copy of a DESPATCH from Governor Elliot to the Right Hon. Lord John Russell.

(No. 50.)

Trinidad, June 1, 1855.

My Lord, (Received June 9, 1855.)

I have the honour to forward the "Blue Book" of this colony for the year 1854.

It will be noticed with satisfaction that notwithstanding the languid state of trade during 1854, and the almost entire interruption of transactions during the months of August, September, and October, consequent upon the epidemic, that the revenue of the whole year 1854, 101,647*l.* covered the whole disbursements, 101,016*l.*, by 631*l.*

In the taxation of the colony there has been no increase or alteration since I assumed the government.

In 1853 the expenditure amounted to 119,231*l.* In 1854 it fell, as above stated, to 101,016*l.*, exhibiting a decreased charge in 1854 of 18,215*l.* This decline of expense is attributable chiefly to the completion of the Port of Spain Waterworks, from the rates of which an income of 1,800*l.* is now derived. That income, I am happy to say, is gradually increasing. The fixed and other expenses of the colony have also been reduced, and economy in those directions will be carried still further in the current year. I am pleased to add that the revenue of the first four months of this year, compared with the same period of 1854, exhibits an increase of 4,000*l.*, under the heads of income available for the general service of the colony, and of nearly 7,000*l.* of revenues set apart for immigration purposes.

The exports during the years 1852, 1853, and 1854 are shown in the annexed table. The falling off in the export of molasses finds its explanation in the increase of the export of rum. In the current year there will probably be an increase in the export of cocoa as compared with 1854; but it is to be apprehended that the sugar crop will be much less, owing to the extraordinary prevalence of heavy rains throughout a period of the year when a passing shower is a rare event. The increased difficulty and cost of production attributable to that circumstance, the shortness of labour supply, owing to cholera, and the very limited introduction of Coolies in 1854, joined to the low prices of sugar in the home markets, will press formidably on the planting interest connected with this colony. I should fail in justice to those gentlemen if I omitted to acknowledge the constancy and strict economy with which all these accumulated difficulties are combated. No class of the Queen's subjects engaged in a precarious business at the best, where no profits are to be made, extraordinary or ordinary, without the risk of a fortune from year to year, have a sounder claim to the sympathy of the Government and the people of England than the West Indian proprietary. It is a distressing reflection that their depressed condition is in a high degree attributable to the vigorously extended prosecution of the Slave Trade in Cuba and Porto Rico since the relaxation of the foreign sugar duties. I venture to express the opinion that it would be a great boon to the West Indian proprietary, in the present state of the manufacturing processes in the colonies, if they were permitted to refine their sugar in bond, and I cannot conceive that any relaxation would be more consistent with those sound principles of commercial policy which are happily now so well settled.

In the year 1854 important modifications have been made under the ordinances Nos. 14 and 15 in the modes of managing the local concerns and roads of the colony, leaving, however, the principle of the territorial legislation

TRINIDAD.

undisturbed. By the ordinance No. 14, conveniently contiguous wards have been formed into ward unions, and placed under the administration of a single warden instead of one to each ward, as was originally the case. Thus we have now ten paid officers, with all their time at the public disposal, instead of forty-one gentlemen pursuing their private avocations and receiving an allowance of 100*l.* per annum for such service as it might be in their power to afford. The wardens of unions are paid partly by fixed salary, varying according to the importance of their unions, and partly by a commission on the rates recovered by them without recourse to sales of property by decree of the Court of Intendant.

By the ordinance No. 15 the distinction between what was called royal roads and ward roads has been abolished, and the whole roads of the colony placed under the management of local boards, consisting of the wardens of the respective unions, and the auditors of the several wards elected by the ratepayers. A central road board, presided over by the Governor, has also been formed in the nature of a board of control and general supervision. That board, sitting at Port of Spain twice a month, oversees the accounts of the local boards, and no contract can be entered into by the local boards without its previous consent—a healthy check upon any tendency to local partiality. But the principle which governs the central board is to leave the whole detail management of the roads to the local bodies, and never to interpose in that management unless the local board should fall into a dead-lock from some irreconcileable dispute and equal division of votes. It should be mentioned that there is an appeal to the central board, under due notice of protest, by any dissenting auditor at the local boards.

The salutary effects of these changes in this material body of legislation have been marked. Till lately it formed a source of constant jar between the Government and the outlying portions of the community, but I am happy to be able to report that the ordinances under consideration have given steadily increasing satisfaction amongst all classes of the people.

I have taken all the pains in my power to select gentlemen of the best experience and abilities I could find, not otherwise occupied, for the important offices of wardens of unions, and I entertain the hope that this improved local administration of extended areas of country and population will train the people in habits of intelligent and vigilant supervision of their own affairs and funds, and gradually furnish safe and convenient means of introducing a due admixture of the representative principle into the constitution of the council of Government. The charge of the new system is less burdensome on the local revenues than that it has replaced, and it will, of course, be understood that the wardens of unions have accepted office on the understanding that they are not to be entitled to retiring allowances, and are strictly considered local officers.

2. I annex a table showing the total amount of local taxation collected during 1854, distinguishing the different kinds of culture, the number of ratepayers in each kind, and the numbers rated within the limits specified in the columns of the table. It will be seen from this table how extensively the burden of local taxation falls upon the sugar planter.

The reports which I invited on the subject of cholera shall be transmitted when they are printed. The total loss in this colony, so far as the returns can be relied upon, estimating the population at 75,000 souls, was between five and six per cent. The total extraordinary expense was 8,000*l.*, one moiety of which will fall on the general funds of the colony, and the other on those of the towns and wards. With the strict economy which I shall continue to carry into every branch of the administration, and further disaster of pestilence or other unforeseen general calamity apart, I see no reason to doubt that I shall be able to cover this charge of 4,000*l.* in the course of the current year.

I have no other observation to make on the prospects of education in this colony, than to assure your Lordship that the system Lord Harris hoped to establish shall have my best support. I greatly wish that it may meet the success it deserves, for it is wisely founded on generous principles. But it is not to be denied that the mixture of races, creeds, and tongues in this community expose all plans for educating the people to all the well known difficulties and obstructions in such matters in their most exaggerated forms. In some quarters, I regret to say, there appears to be a settled dislike to instruct the children in the English language, but I must not omit to add the assured belief that the

Roman catholic clergy, being British subjects, will wisely and zealously do what they can to correct this pernicious prejudice.

In the report with which Lord Harris accompanied the "Blue Book" of 1853, he noticed the arrival of 1,000 Chinese in this colony. Owing in a great degree to the unfortunate omission to send interpreters with these immigrants, there has been much difficulty in their management; neither must I omit to say, that the people, speaking generally, are either of a bad or an ineligible description. I am well acquainted with the Chinese, and it is plain to me that the immigrants to this colony are for the most part the refuse of town populations, and not persons brought up to rural pursuits. We have received an intelligent interpreter in the course of the last year, and the people are now working much more satisfactorily, but still I did not find that there was any such general disposition amongst the planters to increase the immigration from China as to warrant any application for another supply from thence. It is a remarkable circumstance connected with the Coolie immigration, that 144 Coolies, who have just returned to Bengal in the ship "Scindia," carried with them 14,000 dollars in silver, and it is said considerably more in gold, concealed about their persons. Many of them left the colony with the declaration that they would return with some of their relatives and friends. I cannot answer for their sincerity.

I am happy to report that we have now commenced to work the valuable mora forest, which formed the subject of my Despatches Nos. 65 and 83, 1854, and I am without doubt that we shall soon lay down all the timber for our public works at Port of Spain and San Fernando at a diminished cost of upwards of 50 per cent., and gradually open out a source of extended trade with the mother country in a description of durable timber well suited to the more expensive and heavier parts of shipbuilding, and especially to the extensive submarine operations going on in England for the construction and improvement of harbours. I have seen no timber in my service better adapted for piles and other underwater works than the mora of this island. If I can procure the freight at a sufficiently moderate rate, I shall ship one hundred logs to London by an early occasion of the dimensions specified in the memorandum of the Admiralty transmitted in Sir George Grey's Despatch No. 54. 16th November.

Our gaol accommodation and means of employing the prisoners at Port of Spain and San Fernando are inadequate. This serious inconvenience is necessarily increasing with the rapidly increasing Coolie immigration, forming a considerable part of our occasional prison occupants. A far more disquieting subject of reflection is the increase of juvenile offenders, certainly no source of surprise when it is remembered that large proportions of the population at Port of Spain and San Fernando have no means of steady employment, and a very steady disinclination to seek them in field labour. Lasting evil consequences must ensue to the whole community if this deplorable proneness of the youth to idleness and a life of mixed squalor and dissipation in the towns is not temparately but firmly checked.

With the hope to abate this mischievous tendency, I propose to establish a corrective industrial juvenile establishment, something in the nature of the school at "La Mettraye," on the La Paix estate, belonging to the Crown, said to be a healthy situation in the close vicinity of the mora forest in the Bay of Trois. With the abundance of durable material on the spot, the necessary buildings may be set up at a trifling charge. Removing juvenile offenders in this way from the pernicious influence of gaol associations, where they are often surrounded by large numbers of Asiatics, ignorant Africans, and hardened felons, as well as from the neighbourhood of the towns, for periods of more or less duration according to the nature and degree of their offence, I trust that it may be practicable to combine steady training in habits of continuous industry with sound moral instruction under an efficient schoolmaster and mistress. Their religious instruction will of course be provided for by the occasional visits of ministers of the form of faith to which they belong. They should be taught and compelled to grow their own ground provisions, and trained to useful trades, and might otherwise be profitably employed in diminishing the charge of the establishment by cording firewood, and making shingles and staves—sure of sale in this colony, with good returns. The girls would require to be sedulously trained in useful arts of domestic economy, and

TRINIDAD.

habits of cleanliness and neatness—too little understood or practised amongst the poorer classes in this community. I need not remark that I should not venture to recommend to the council the establishment of a juvenile corrective depôt at "La Paix," or elsewhere, until we had satisfactory proof of the healthiness of the position.

It is my intention, however, as an experimental measure, to locate near the Trois Forest a small establishment of steadily behaved adult male prisoners, who have served more than half their time, with the prospect of favourable consideration as respects release and some gratuity at the period of discharge, according to behaviour and industry, sending back any defaulter to the gaol at Port of Spain for the whole of the remainder of his sentence. By this modification of the system of "ticket-of-leave," and taking care only to employ at the forest depôt old and steadily conducted prisoners, under the hope of early release, according to correct behaviour, I trust there will be little need of burdensome police surveillance. They would be very useful in working the forest for the benefit of the colony.

In closing this report I cannot but express my surprise that the remarkable indications of valuable and varied mineralogical resources in this island have never formed the subject of any kind of systematic scientific research. It would be more correct to say of those indications that it would be remarkable if they did not present themselves than it is to meet with them in a region where we have a lake of bitumen fed by innumerable springs and discharging itself into the sea in an ever-running stream of pitch, where mud volcanos exist, never in a state of complete quiescence, and sometimes bursting out with great force and loud noises, and where shocks of earthquakes are frequent though slight. These and other proofs of incessant subterranean commotion at scarcely the thickness of the soles of our shoes, and the structure of the mountain chains in the north, the east, and the south of the island, amply explain the existence of quicksilver, and of copper and iron ores, specimens of which have certainly and frequently been found in this island.

I trust that Her Majesty's Government will be pleased to authorize me to cause such scientific investigation to be made into the mineralogical resources of the island as may be within my reach, taking care that the charge for this service should be prudently limited by due regard to the financial condition of the colony.

I have, &c.
(Signed) CHAS. ELLIOT.

The Right Hon. Lord John Russell,
&c. &c. &c.

RETURN of Articles exported from the Colony during the Years 1852, 1853, and 1854.

Articles.	1852.	1853.	1854.
Sugar - - lbs.	37,442,972	48,020,613	50,055,998
Molasses - gals.	361,067	1.201,019	782,401
Rum - „	73,635	99,834	285,446
Cocoa - - lbs.	6,823,695	4,904,719	3,379,159
Coffee - - „	258,442	64,849	58,934
Cotton - - „	18,800	Bales 16 Sers. 546	Bales 397 Sers. 20
Sundries - £ sterling	6,932	6,043	3,732

The total Amount of Local Taxation for the Year ended the 31st December 1854, received under the Warden's Ordinance, was 17,874*l.* 10*s.* 7*d.* Of this Amount there is paid as follows: 11,249*l.* 7*s.* 10*d.*; the difference being made up of Spirit Licences collected for Ward Purposes, and of Land in provisions attached to Sugar Estates.

Nature of Cultivation.	Acreage.	Number of Ratepayers.	Total Amount in Rates Sterling.	Number of Ratepayers paying			
				Sp.d. 1·20 or 5*s.* sterling and under.	From Sp.d. 1·20 or 5*s.* to Sp.d. 250 or 52*l.* 1*s.* 8*d.*	From Sp.d. 250 or 52*l.* 1*s.* 8*d.* to Sp.d. 500 or 104*l.* 3*s.* 4*d.*	From Sp.d. 500 or 104*l.* 3*s.* 4*d.* to Sp.d. 750 or 156*l.* 5*s.* and over.
			£ *s.* *d.*				
In Sugar - -	29,250	318	6,468 18 6	46	226	43	3
In Cocoa, Coffee, and Cotton - -	11,394	1,825	2,757 0 0	369	1,455	1	Nil.
In Provisions - -	8,520	3,693	2,023 9 4	1,650	2,043	Nil.	Nil.
	49,164	5,836	11,249 7 10	2,065	3,724	44	3

BRITISH GUIANA.

No. 11.

Copy of a DESPATCH from Governor Wodehouse to the Right Honourable Sir William Molesworth, Bart.

(No. 125.) Government House, Georgetown, September 7, 1855.

(Received October 3, 1855.)

Sir,

I do myself the honour of transmitting to you the Blue Book for the colony of British Guiana, for 1854.

Revenue and Expenditure.

On reference to the comparative yearly statement of the revenue for the years 1853 and 1854, it will be seen that there is an apparent falling off in the latter year of 31,315*l.* The real deficiency, however, is no more than 750*l.*, and the difference is easily to be accounted for as follows: In both years the sums received from immigration loan funds are set down as revenue, they being in reality nothing more than sums borrowed, to be repaid at some future period. In 1853 no less than 61,175*l.* was thus borrowed, but in 1854 only 30,610*l.*, that is, 30,565*l.* less; and if this last sum be deducted from the apparent deficiency on the total revenue, there will be a balance of no more than 750*l.*

Of the other items in the statement there are few that require notice. On the wine and spirit duties there is a falling off of 15,138*l.*, attributable to considerable importations in 1853, immediately before the increased rates of duty (fixed by the combined Court of that year) took effect, and likewise to the stagnation of trade consequent on the great rise in the prices of wines and spirits on the continent of Europe.

The increase of 5,805*l.* on the general import duties arises from the fact, that since the 1st July 1853 the duty levied upon ad valorem goods has been fixed at ten instead of four per cent.; while the increase of 2,033*l.* upon the produce export tax may be traced to a considerable portion of the crop of 1853, intended for shipment during that year, having been detained for a time, owing to the scarcity of tonnage.

The comparative statement of expenditure shows a decrease of 7,973*l.*, but it would be wrong to take this as a proof in itself of the economical administration of the finances, inasmuch as the expenditure for immigration fell off to the amount of 11,264*l.*, to the loss rather than to the benefit of the colony. In 1854, on the other hand, we paid 5,125*l.* for the interest and sinking fund of

BRITISH GUIANA.

loans over and above the sums paid for those services in 1853; but the sums paid in each year were of course in strict proportion to the debt owing by the colony at the time. Generally speaking, I am enabled to state that all ill-advised expenditure of the public money is, as far as practicable, avoided.

Public Works.

No new works of importance were undertaken during 1854, but an important change has been effected in the management of them. Until 1854 the charge of all the public buildings was vested in a commission of gentlemen, unpaid and practically irresponsible; but in the course of that year the Legislature were induced to abolish the commission and to provide for the employment of a paid responsible civil engineer,—a change, of the prudence of which every day has afforded additional proof.

Legislation.

Twenty-five ordinances have been passed by the Colonial Legislature during the year. Ordinances Nos. 1 and 2, relating to the relief of the poor, have since, at the suggestion of Her Majesty's Government, been repealed and consolidated. Ordinance No. 7, for the general regulation of immigration and of the immigrants, was passed after a prolonged correspondence between the several Secretaries of State and the Local Government. Various enactments had during the course of several previous years been passed and partially or totally repealed, while during the same time resolutions had been passed by the combined Court, which, though not really possessing the force of law, had been permitted to interfere in practice with the ordinances themselves. The natural result was extreme confusion and uncertainty in all the relations subsisting between the immigrants and their employers, to the real benefit of neither party, but to the positive detriment of both; and a final settlement of the points in dispute had come to be regarded as a matter of the deepest importance to the colony. The ordinance has been in full operation since the commencement of this year, and is universally admitted to have effected a great improvement. Ordinance No. 12, for the establishment of dispensaries and provision of medical attendance in the villages, was passed in the hope of checking the loss of life, particularly of children, universally believed to take place among the Creole population settled in villages of their own creation. It has not yet been found practicable to bring it into active operation, although the design has by no means been abandoned. This is, in fact, one of the many features of the present condition of the Creoles, which cannot but be viewed with much anxiety, but for the improvement of which it is at this late period very difficult to devise plans.

Ordinance No. 25 provides for the management of the penal settlement, a large convict establishment situated on one of the branches of the Essequibo River, which has been in existence for several years, though without any law having been passed for its control. Perhaps the only part of the present Bill which requires notice here, is that which relates to the release of prisoners on tickets of leave, at the expiration of four years or upwards.

The Bill gives them no positive right to them; but the Governor is invested with a power to grant them, at his discretion, to such men as are likely, from their conduct while in gaol, and from their previous habits of life, to prove themselves deserving of mercy. The men thus released are required, during the whole time for which the ticket remains in force, to enter into indentures of service from year to year with some employers, and are bound to appear once in every quarter before a magistrate. They are likewise liable to be sent back to the settlement on their original sentences, if convicted after their release of any offence.

But few have yet been set at large under the ordinance, but against none of them has any complaint been made. I am not aware of any other subjects upon which it is now necessary for me to remark.

I have, &c.

(Signed) P. E. WODEHOUSE.

The Right Hon.
Sir William Molesworth, Bart.,
&c. &c.

BARBADOS.

No. 12.

No. 12.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor-General Sir W. M. G. COLEBROOKE to the Right Hon. Lord JOHN RUSSELL.

(No. 46.)

Windward Islands, Barbadoes,
June 9, 1855.

MY LORD, (Received June 29, 1855.)

I HAVE the honour to forward the Barbados "Blue Book" for 1854.

Finances.

The condition of the island in the last year was so seriously affected in consequence of the severity of the drought which prevailed, and the sufferings of the people from scarcity of provisions, followed by the sudden outbreak of epidemic cholera, that in reporting on the finances it is impossible to institute any comparison of the returns with those of the preceding year. The public disbursements in providing for the support of the indigent, the care of the sick, and the interment of the dead, far exceeded the resources of the colony, and led for a time to the suspension of the public works in progress.

From the abstract appended it will be seen that the revenue, which in 1853 amounted to 61,552*l.*, in 1854 amounted to 59,142*l.*, while the expenditure of 1854 amounted to 71,227*l.* A loan of 10,000*l.* was obtained from the Colonial Bank, to redeem which and to meet the public demands additional taxes and duties have been imposed in the present year.

Public Works.

It is creditable to the legislature under these circumstances that the public works were resumed as soon as it was practicable, and I have had the satisfaction to report the completion of the new gaol at a cost of 28,000*l.*, and also a survey to determine the practicability of supplying Bridgetown and the shipping in Carlisle Bay with fresh water from springs on the opposite side of the island.

New Gaol.

The new gaol, of which a plan and elevation is annexed, has been constructed in a manner to provide for the introduction of the system of discipline in force in the prisons at Pentonville and Portland. It contains separate accommodation for seventy-two male prisoners, and the area enclosed will admit of the enlargement of the prison within the walls, and the construction of a separate penitentiary for females, which is much required.

Waterworks.

The estimated cost of the waterworks, of which the report and plan are appended, is 68,277*l.* This capital it has been proposed to raise on the credit of the island, and to redeem in fifteen years.

Harbour Light.

The only other public work contemplated is the erection of a harbour light in Carlisle Bay, for which provision has been made by the legislature.

Military Expenses.

To the extraordinary expenses of the last year may chiefly be ascribed the delay in providing for the reorganization of the militia, but the subject occupies the attention of the legislature.

The concentration of the troops of the command has augmented the strength of the garrison; and, aided by the resources of the colony, its defence will be adequately provided for.

BARBADOS.

Legislation.

Of the legislation in the last year, the most important acts were those for the government and establishment of the prisons, for the substitution of other punishments in lieu of transportation, and for the establishment of a central sugar factory and model farm. Resolutions have been passed by the legislature for establishing, in connexion with the other windward colonies, a court of appeal under the Act of Parliament (13 & 14 Vict c. 15.)

Legislative Bodies.

The constitution of the island legislature has not undergone any change. Much inconvenience having been found to attend the local administration by numerous boards composed of members of the legislative bodies, a proposal for their consolidation is now under consideration.

Civil Establishment.

The only material change in the civil establishment has been in the appointment by act of the legislature of a judge of the minor court of appeal, whose office is held during good behaviour.

Population.

Of the population of the island, the mortality in the last year from cholera has been estimated at 18,000, and as 135,939 were returned at the census of 1851, with an annual rate of increase of one six-tenths per cent. on the population of 1844, the numbers may be considered to have been reduced in the last year to 124,568, or to the level of the population of 1845, about 750 to the square mile.

Condition of the Peasantry.

Some remarks having recently been published by the Honourable Grant E. Thomas, M.D., on the effects of the cholera in Barbados, and the facts it has elicited in regard to the condition of the negro peasantry, I append an extract of his address to an agricultural society of which he is the president; and as Dr. Thomas has held out a practical example of the salutary influence which a humane and liberal landlord can exert, he has a claim to the attention of those who from their absence may be unconscious of the evils which in a material degree are attributable to the neglect or mismanagement of their agents, and which, if not corrected in time, would result in the disorganization of the country.

Barbados is well known to constitute an exception to the other West India Colonies in the possession, if not of a redundant at least of a sufficient population, as attested by the fact that so great a mortality in the last year has not sensibly affected the labour market.

Dr. Thomas has alluded in his address to the loose habits which are prevalent amongst the peasantry; to their scanty attire, their wretched tenements, and to their practice of crowding in them without regard to age or sex; to the dissipation of their resources by some, and to the hoarding of them by others, with a view to the purchase of land, while their children are neglected; evils which are aggravated by the desertion of the plantations for employment in jobbing gangs under profligate leaders. On the other hand, he has borne testimony to the exemplary conduct of many during the cholera. But to whatever extent such injurious habits prevail, their correction must in a great measure depend on the proprietors, who, besides contributing to the support of schools on their estates, should provide for the removal of the wretched hovels of their peasantry, and for the erection of suitable cottages for their occupation under leasehold tenures.

The practice of imposing double rents for their allotments when labour is withheld should be discontinued, and which, although submitted to from the strength of their local attachments, is a subject of general complaint with the negroes.

That the evils engendered by slavery should have been entailed on the present generation is less surprising than that so many of them should have been

surmounted in the last twenty years, and that the disposition of the peasantry is so favourable for the correction of those which remain; but without the aid of the proprietors it will be in vain to expect that the progress of disorganization can be arrested, and however much may be done by the legislature for the encouragement of education and the reformation of criminals, these measures, without such co-operation, must be ineffectual.

It is well known that the victims of the Slave Trade have, with few exceptions, been drawn from the most peaceable and inoffensive of the African tribes, and that the fidelity of the native African has been generally proverbial in the West Indies; and it is now abundantly evident that if the white and black races had orginally been suffered to grow up together in the possession of equal rights, and free from the prejudices of caste and colour, these colonies possessing a moral and intelligent mixed population, might have been the most prosperous and civilized dependencies of the Crown; but although their improvement has been retarded, it has still been progressive; and if the popular institutions of the colonies should be preserved and improved, their future welfare may be ultimately established on a stable and durable foundation.

Political Franchises.

In some colonies the electors are in full possession of the common law qualification, but in others, even where property in land can easily be acquired, the franchise is much restricted. In Barbados, where from the high price of land it is difficult of attainment, there are 1,380 registered electors in a population of 124,000, and of them only 76 voted at the last annual elections in returning 24 members to the assembly. It is probable, however, that there would have been a larger number of voters if the elections had been contested.

Although I have from time to time recommended some local reforms, with a view to facilitate the transaction of the public business, and especially in the formation of separate Executive Councils, I have not considered it advisable to advocate any material changes in the constitution of the local assemblies; but if the non-resident proprietors would unite with those who are resident in the colonies, and take a leading part in their affairs, the convention of a general legislature would afford an opportunity for enlarging the constituencies under the most favourable circumstances, and the dedication of a few weeks annually to the business of the session could not be considered an undue claim on their services.

Municipal Incorporation.

The preservation and extension of the municipal privileges of the several communities would also be desirable as a means of fostering the principles of local self-government, and concentrating the attention of the legislatures upon objects of general importance,—the revival of credit, the public defence, the improvement and assimilation of the laws and their administration, the condition of the poor, the extension of education, the freedom of commerce, and others in which the inhabitants of every class are interested.

Barbados, as a commercial entrepôt, and the most populous and advanced of these communities, would form the most favourable position for the assemblage of a general legislature; and any three or more of these colonies might unite with advantage at the outset, under the provisions of an Act of Parliament, so framed as to enable them by auxiliary enactments to participate in the privileges accorded by it, as they might be led to appreciate the importance of united action on matters of common interest between them.

Agriculture and Commerce.

The agriculture and commerce of the island are so reciprocally dependent on each other that they may be considered together. I have in former Reports alluded to the extension of sugar planting with the gradual reduction of the duties in Great Britain. The sugar, molasses, and rum exported in 1853 were valued at 603,671*l.*, and the whole of the exports, deducting for goods re-exported not being the produce of the colony, at 612,583*l.*

In 1854 the sugar, &c. exported was valued at 783,833*l.*, and the entire exports, 793,755*l.* deducting, as before, for goods re-exported.

BARBADOS.

From the reduction of the Imperial Customs Establishment in the last year, and the method adopted in keeping the accounts of the colonial customs, the value of the goods imported liable to specific duties has not been returned in detail; the aggregate value, however, of the imports has been 596,843*l.* 6*s.* 8*d.*, while the shipping employed amounted to 95,931 tons inwards, and 89,188 outwards, manned by 5,943 seamen.

The dependence of these colonies for a large part of the subsistence of the people on the United States, and the high duties there imposed on the produce of the colonies, render it of importance to re-encourage a trade with British North America, upon terms reciprocally advantageous; and the repeal which has been proposed of the duties on bread stuffs and other supplies imported from Canada on the admission there of produce of this colony free of duty, will lead, it is hoped, to a trade beneficial to both countries.

Gaols and Prisons.

I have alluded to the completion and occupation of the new gaol, and I have much satisfaction in reporting that it has been attended with salutary effects on the conduct of the male prisoners confined in it, and that the adoption of the provisions of the Act of Parliament for substituting other punishment in lieu of transportation has given increased effect to the reformatory system of discipline already successfully in operation. The number of offenders, which in 1853 was 2,749, in 1854 was 1,866. I greatly regret that no means have yet been provided for the separate confinement of the female prisoners, and the application of the same reformatory principles to them.

The juvenile asylum for boys, in which they are employed at agricultural labour, has been satisfactorily conducted by the present superintendent, and has been the means of reclaiming some of its inmates from evil habits and associations. It has not been found practicable to carry out the provisions of the Act of Parliament for the establishment of reformatory schools to which they can be transferred.

Charitable Institutions.

Of the charitable institutions of the island there is a lunatic asylum containing forty-two patients under very efficient management, but the buildings are defective in construction and insufficient for their accommodation. There is also a colonial hospital supported by public and private contributions. I regret to report that no arrangements have hitherto been made for the establishment of a seamen's hospital. The Assembly has consented by resolution to apply a portion of the tonnage duties to this purpose, and from the large number of seamen who frequent the port—from 6,000 to 7,000 annually—their severe labour, and the long periods of their detention in a tropical climate, where epidemics frequently prevail, it is of importance that such a refuge in case of sickness should be available to them.

For the due protection of the seamen it would be of great advantage if an active and intelligent officer were to be appointed on full pay as naval officer to the port, and with permission to hold the office of deputy harbour master, with ultimate succession to that of harbour master when a vacancy occurred.

Education.

A central school, originally endowed by the legislature for the education of the children of the poor white inhabitants, has for some years been open also to the reception of black children. It is very efficiently conducted as a training school for teachers, of whom several have been brought forward, and are now in charge of parochial schools. A grammar school has lately been appended to this establishment, which is self-supporting; there is also another grammar school in the city endowed by the late Mr. Harrison. Codrington College, liberally endowed by the late General Codrington, contains at present eighteen students; a grammar school is attached to it, and a training school in connexion with the African Society, who are about to send a mission to the west coast of Africa.—(*See note.*)

These endowments, with other institutions, general and parochial, for the relief of orphans and aged or infirm persons, are creditable to the community of Barbados, and indicate a spirit which I hope may not be impaired through the absence of so many of the proprietors, or their neglect of the interests of the people, which it so essential to the welfare of the country and to their own that they should protect and promote.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. M. G. COLEBROOKE.

The Right Hon. Lord John Russell,
&c. &c. &c.

Note.—The parochial schools were for the most part broken up through the prevalence of cholera in 1854, and the death of several of the teachers, in consequence of which the returns of them are inaccurate.

W. M. G. C.

BARBADOS.

ABSTRACT RETURN from "Blue Book" for 1854.

Revenue.

Year.	Customs Duties.			Assessed and other Taxes.	Other Incidental Receipts.	Total.	Decrease.
	Import.	Export.	Tonnage.				
	£		£	£	£	£	£
1853	41,835	Nil.	4,711	12,209	2,797	61,552	
1854	*35,762	Nil.	9,218	9,583	4,579	†59,142	2,410

* Amounts claimed for drawback not included.
† Exclusive of arrears of 8,282*l.* from 1853, and of loan of 10,000*l.*

Expenditure, Colonial.

Year.	Civil Government.	Judicial.	Ecclesiastical.	Education.	Police.	Prisons.	Public Buildings.	Legislative Grants.	Other Expenditure.	Total.	Increase.
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
1853	8,258	7,034	7,535	2,674	16,412	2,725	8,908	5,578	9,075	†68,199	—
1854	9,545	7,366	7,020	1,882	16,231	3,335	6,103	2,277	*17,468	†71,227	3,028

* Includes cholera expenses.
† Exclusive of drawback.

Expenditure, Local and Parochial.

Year.	Poor.	Roads.	Total.
1853	- - -	No Accurate Returns.	
1854			

BARBADOS.

Expenditure, Great Britain.

Year.	Civil.	Military.	Total.	Remarks.
£	£	£	£	The first column includes Governor and Private Secretary's salary, the Bishop and Archdeacon's, with payments to ministers and stipendiary magistrates. The second column includes all military expenses.
1853	10,000	75,220	85,220	
1854	10,150	70,275	80,425	

Population.

Year.	Males.	Females.	Total.	Remarks.	
				Per Census of June 1851 -	135,939
1853	62,272	73,667	135,939	Ratio of increase at 1 6-10ths per annum to June 1854—	
1854	Estimated at - -		124,568	3 years - - -	6,629
					142,568
				Mortality in 1854 from cholera - - -	18,000
					124,568

Lands.

Year.	Area in Square Miles.	Acreage under Cultivation.	Remarks.
1853	166	100,000	It has been found impracticable without legislative assistance to obtain any accurate information on this subject.
1854	166	100,000	

Coins and Currency.

Year.	Specie in Circulation.	Notes in Circulation.	Remarks.
	Estimated at		British constitutes almost the entire currency of the island. There is a limited circulation of British gold. The only paper currency is colonial bank notes.
1853	50,000*l.*	30,000*l.*	
1854	50,000*l.*	36,000*l.*	

Churches.

Year.	Church of England.	Other Denominations.	No. of Sittings.	Average Attendance.	Remarks.
1853	49	—	26,844	—	No return of other denominations.
1854	49	—	26,726	—	No accurate return of average attendance.

Schools.

Year.	Church of England.	Other Denominations.	Total.	Remarks.
1853	6,480	1,880	7,360	From Inspectors of Schools' Report.
1854				

Value in Sterling.

	Imports.				Exports.			
Year.	From Great Britain.	From British Colonies.	From Foreign States.	Total.	To Great Britain.	To British Colonies.	To Foreign States.	Total.
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
1853	312,119	94,175	165,019	571,313	607,550	153,605	14,164	775,319
1854	Not returned separately.			596,843	782,156	141,672	22,021	945,849

Shipping.

	Inwards.				Outwards.			
Year.	From Great Britain.	From British Colonies.	From Foreign States.	Total.	To Great Britain.	To British Colonies.	To Foreign States.	Total.
1853	32,500	33,137	31,799	97,436	35,576	34,028	30,979	100,583
1854	3,567	27,324	34,500	95,391	37,927	27,566	23,695	89,188

Criminal and other Prisoners.

Year.	Men.	Women.	Boys.	Girls.	Total.	Decrease.	Debtors.
1853	1,520	893	215	121	2,749	—	31
1854	1,082	482	186	116	1,866	883	16

Water Supply, Bridgetown, Barbados.

Extracts from General Report.

Bridgetown.—Barbados is situated in a gently undulating plain of small extent, surrounded nearly by rising ground of moderate elevation, gradually shelving down to an open space on the south, where it is bounded by Carlisle Bay.

Soil.—The soil is in some places of a sandy, in others of a marly character, on a substratum of coral rock.

Population.—Bridgetown contains a population of 25,000 persons, exclusive of a dense population of at least 5,000 more residing in the immediate suburbs, but not within the limits of the city.

Sanitary Condition.—In regard to those important points affecting the public health, a supply of pure water, sewerage, surface drainage, judicious arrangement of streets, and proper construction of habitations, Bridgetown is lamentably defective. Few towns can offer a greater accumulation of evils, arising from the want of good sanitary measures, than this city.

BARBADOS.

Water Supply.—First in the order of importance among the wants of Bridgetown is that of a good supply of pure water. At present it is precarious and insufficient; it is procured partly from wells, and partly from springs. The water from the wells is generally unfit for drinking, and is only used for cleansing purposes. That for drinking is procured from springs in the vicinity of the town, mostly from Beckles, where water is sold by the owner to persons who make a trade of carting it in casks to different parts of the town for sale.

The ordinary price of water is two cents for four gallons.

I have been informed that there are from twenty to thirty individuals with carts thus employed, who sell from 6,000 to 8,000 gallons of water daily. If this information be correct,—and from extended inquiry I see no reason to doubt it,—the inhabitants of Bridgetown pay from 2,000*l.* to 2,500*l.* sterling per annum for the privilege of being supplied with about a pint of drinkable water per head daily. From this state of things it results that this necessary of life is but scantily supplied to the poor, ill able to pay for a sufficient supply at the above rate, and that great privation is the consequence.

When such is the case with regard to water for drinking, it will be readily imagined that the use of the bath, that powerful means of sustaining and invigorating health in tropical climates, becomes an occasional luxury, instead of an habitual practice, and that the supply is utterly wanting to all efficient purposes of cleansing streets and yards, sewerage, and the suppression of fires.

Fires.—Among the secondary evils and inconveniences arising from a deficient supply of water to Bridgetown, its total insufficiency to meet the emergency of fire prominently exhibits itself. Almost every house in the town is covered with shingles, and thus that part of a building most exposed to sparks and burning embers, borne along by the wind during a conflagration, is constructed of the most inflammable materials. Owing to this structural defect and the want of water, fires in Bridgetown are wide-spread and destructive. A fire occurred in 1825, which destroyed a great number of houses in the south-east part of the town.

Another occurred in 1845, which burnt down all the houses covering an area of near ten acres of ground. The amount of property destroyed on this occasion may be estimated from the fact that the legislature purchased the land known as "the Burnt District," on which the houses stood, at a cost of 30,000*l.* sterling. Another fire occurred in 1853, but from its having taken place in the daytime, it was discovered before it had made much progress, and by timely vigorous exertion, principally on the part of the military, it was extinguished, and the most populous part of the town, at one time in great danger, was saved from destruction.

The machinery for the suppression of fires in Bridgetown consisted until lately of a fire brigade of eighteen men and six fire-engines, maintained at an annual cost of 850*l.* sterling. This amount was raised by a rate of 5*d.* in the pound on all rentals throughout the town. But the best organized force, and the most powerful fire-engines are of small avail without water; and it has been found in Bridgetown, that in case of fire the best, indeed the only protective measure, is to isolate the burning buildings by the destruction of the adjoining and neighbouring houses, and "to let the fire burn itself out," as the phrase is. It appears to me, however, that the only limits that could be placed on the ravages of a fire occurring in the eastern part of Bridgetown, with a strong breeze blowing, would be those of the town itself: it would inevitably be burnt down to the water's edge.

The Act establishing the fire brigade expired about two years ago, and has not been renewed. The duties of the men devolve on the police.

Streets.—Bridgetown appears to have been built without regard to any plan or system of arrangement. It abounds in narrow crooked streets and alleys and confined thoroughfares. A few of the streets have side pavements and gutters, but the greater number of them are without either. In some streets the sides of the houses form part of the gutter, and as they are built of a porous stone, absorption of moisture ensues in wet weather, with its inevitable consequence, damp unwholesome dwellings. From the malformation of most of the streets, and the general absence of gutters, the surface drainage is very defective, pools of water are formed during rain, and allowed to stagnate until the water is absorbed or evaporated.

Sewerage.—There is no system of sewerage in Bridgetown. Surface drainage and foul gutters are the means of relief from the house fluid refuse, open cesspools and moveable tubs receive the other kind. The former, generally shallow from water being met with near the surface, are emptied at the convenience of the proprietor of the house; the emptying of the latter is a nightly operation. By certain police regulations it is ordered that the night soil shall not be removed before nine o'clock at night nor after five o'clock in the morning, nor deposited in any place but the sea; but such are the dirty, indolent, and inconsiderate habits of the lower classes of Bridgetown, that to avoid the trouble of carrying it to the sea, the filth is thrown down in the streets and thoroughfares; in any place, in fact, where the absence of the police allows it to be done with impunity.

Both systems are intolerable nuisances; the cesspools saturate the soil with offensive matter, and poison the wells by infiltration, the cleansing of the tubs is a constant source of pollution to the streets, and to the sea in the immediate vicinity of the town. Thus, for want of a system of sewerage, the whole of the refuse of the city, invaluable in an

island like Barbados, where the poverty of the soil renders high manuring necessary, instead of being carefully collected and conveyed from the town and applied to agricultural purposes in the country, removing a cause of insalubrity from the one and converting it into the means of enduing the other with inexhaustible fertility, is thrown away and lost; while, at the same time, with singular inconsistency, large quantities of an inferior sort of manure are at great expense annually imported into the island.

Scavenging.—The subject of scavenging is closely connected with that of sewerage, inasmuch as both have the same object in view, the removal of dirt from the town.

The scavenging of Bridgetown is very defective; it is either not done at all, or it is performed at the wrong time. I have seen accumulations of dirt allowed to remain in the same spot, and stagnant filth in the same gutter during weeks, in certain parts of the town, whilst in others I have observed labourers employed in collecting the refuse and carting it away, not in the morning early, before the traffic has commnced, as should be done, but at midday, when its removal becomes a nuisance instead of an advantage, and when, besides, dirt accumulates as fast as it is removed.

The scavenging and repairing of streets are under the control of the Health Commission, composed of the members of the assembly for the city and parish, and five members of the vestry. The city is divided into four districts, and to each district is attached an inspector, whose duty is to superintend the scavenging and cleansing of the streets, to inspect yards and houses, and to give information of all nuisances with the view to their abatement. A distinct officer, an inspector of roads and streets, is charged with the duty of repairing the streets. Yet, notwithstanding all this machinery, involving considerable expense, nuisances of all descriptions abound in Bridgetown—streets exceedingly dirty, and ill kept, and generally in a very bad state of repair.

Crowded State of Dwellings.—Among the causes injurious to health in Bridgetown is the crowded state of the houses of the lower orders. Extending right and left of narrow alleys are found yards and courts filled with wretched little wooden tenements, clustered together so thickly as to render ventilation and solar exposure utterly impossible. The crowded state of these huts is indescribable. In a report to the Governor on the condition of these places during cholera, Dr. Reeves, a medical practitioner in Bridgetown, states, "I have seen eleven children and six adults occupying a dilapidated wooden tene-" ment eighteen feet by eleven feet four, or six persons were ordinarily found inhabiting " one half the size." Dr. Clarke, in a report on the same subject, notices the crowded condition of the houses, and alludes to the habit of the lower orders, of studiously excluding from their dwellings all admission of air at night.

It appears that the cholera has produced no change in the overcrowding of these clusters of tenements. They are, of course, unprovided with adequate convenience for health, decency, and cleanliness. A necessary common to the whole yard and generally in a very offensive condition—a surface drain in the centre or on one side in the same state—bones and the rejected portions of animal food, parings of vegetables, old rags, and all sorts of refuse scattered about, present a picture true of all these places, of surprising dirtiness and discomfort.

In certain districts, Rebitt's Ground and Church Village, inhabited by the poorer classes, all the evils of structural defects in the houses, and of imperfect drainage and sewerage, are found in an aggravated degree. From the lowness of the site, and from the general level character of the streets, narrow, unpaved, and without gutters, the drainage is very bad—in fact, there is none; here the ground is in a foul state of saturation, and offensive refuse stagnates on all sides.

As with the streets so with the houses, the worst are in this locality. There are to be found thickly packed together the most miserable wooden huts, in all states of dilapidation and decay—low, dark, dirty, and unventilated, destitute of all appliances for decency and cleanliness; some with the floors resting on the ground absorbing its contaminating moisture, others sufficiently raised to allow of the accumulation of refuse under them, but without affording the means of access to remove it. The condition of these places is bad in the extreme; they must be hotbeds of disease, and I am informed that, in comparison with others, they suffered most from cholera during the late visitation.

Graveyards in the City.—The practice of interring the dead in graveyards situate in the heart of crowded cities has been shown to be fraught with so many evils, physical and moral, converting places, the sight and contemplation of which should cherish those feelings of reverence which Christians entertain for the dead, into nuisances which outrage those feelings, while they offend the senses and endanger health, that it is a matter of surprise that it should still be adopted in Bridgetown. The scenes described to me as having been witnessed in some of these graveyards are too disgusting and dreadful to dwell upon. Of all the nuisances in Bridgetown this is the most inexcusable, the means of prevention being so easy of attainment.

Constitution River.—Another cause of insalubrity is the Constitution River, forming the southern boundary of the city. This stream, subject to tidal action for about a mile from its mouth, is the drainage pan of an extensive district lying to the north and east

BARBADOS.

of Bridgetown. In fine weather the bed of the river is dry above the town, but during heavy rains it becames a rapid torrent. Where it skirts the town, it is the receptacle of a large amount of filth, thrown into it by those residing on its banks, and the turbid mass moved backwards and forwards, and kept in a constant state of commotion by the tide, is a fruitful source of noxious exhalation.

From the preceding observations it appears, that in Bridgetown a deficient and impure supply of water, imperfect surface drainage, no sewerage, ill-constructed and crowded dwellings for the living—graveyards for the dead in the heart of the city, thus crowding the dead with the living, crooked, narrow, unpaved, and undrained streets, accumulations of dirt in all directions, are the evils arising from the want of good sanitary measures. No wonder that in a community living in such utter neglect of the laws of nature and of the means furnished by the Act to obviate the evils attendant upon the congregation of large masses of people in confined spots, disorders should be rife, and that epidemics, when they do appear, should assume a fearfully aggravated form.

Nor let it be concluded (as I have heard advanced, whether rightly or wrongly I am unable to state, no general registry of births and deaths being kept in the island), that because the mortality in Bridgetown does not present a strongly marked disproportion as compared with that of the country districts, the standard of health is not unnaturally low. But if the fact were as stated a very slight acquaintance with sanitary statistics teaches us that even when the mortality is not largely increased by the bad sanitary condition of town, its evil effects upon the inhabitants are not the less plainly exhibited in the general ill state of habit of the masses, in the reduction and depression of their physical powers, in their increased susceptibility to causes of disease, and in the gradual degeneracy of successive generations into weak enfeebled creatures, precocious in depravity, averse to labour, and corrupted by the general filth and uncleanness around them.

Of this description I am led to believe were thousands of those who were lately swept off by cholera in Bridgetown, and no evidence more conclusive could be found of the deteriorated condition of the public health than the fact, undeniable and well established, that in proportion to the population of the different towns the mortality of Bridgetown from cholera was more than twice or thrice as great as that which occurred in Port of Spain, Trinidad; Castries, St. Lucia; and St. George's, Grenada—all of them, it is worthy of remark, being supplied with waterworks.

Remedial Measures.—The most efficient remedies for the evils which affect the salubrity of Bridgetown are, the acquisition of a supply of good water, the construction of a complete system of underground sewers, the improvement of the streets, and the formation of proper gutters to obtain good surface drainage, and the enforcement of such building regulations as shall secure the construction of suitable habitations for all classes.

Water Supply.—The water supply should be sufficient, not only for the ordinary wants of the inhabitants, but for all purposes of cleansing yards, drains, &c.

The water service should be constant, that is, the pipes should always be charged, and under sufficient pressure to force the water into the highest story of the loftiest building, and also for the purpose of obtaining a jet that would throw the water over the highest edifice in the city in case of fire.

The sources whence a supply of water could be obtained for Bridgetown are—1st. Beekler's Spring; 2d. Pory's Spring; 3d. Spring in Cole's Cave; 4th. Spring at Codrington College.

To use Beckles' Spring it would be necessary to pump the water to one of the neighbouring heights, as the spring issues from the ground, on the same level as the lowest part of the town.

From the liability of all machinery to derangement, and from the scarcity of skilled labour in the island, and the consequent difficulty of getting it repaired without great expense and great delay, there would be constant interruption in the supply attended by a want of water in the town. Another objection to pumping is the heavy annual expenses it entails for fuel for the engine, repairs, &c.

The cost of supplying the town with 420,000 gallons of water daily from Beccles' Spring would be,—Establishment of works, 16,000*l.*; annual working expenses, 900*l.*, independent of compensation to the owner of the spring, which would be considerable.

Moreover, the quantity supplied would be insufficient—the supply required being at least 700,000 gallons. The cost of leading into Bridgetown the water from Pory's Cole's Cave and Codrington College Springs would be,—Establishment of works, 51,000*l.*; annual working expenses, 200*l.*

These three springs would afford a supply of 850,000 gallons delivered under high pressure, the elevation of the lowest of these springs being 348 feet above high-water mark, or about 335 feet above the highest part of Bridgetown. This supply of water would be ample for all purposes; it would afford 500,000 gallons for domestic use, 150,000

for flushing sewers, 100,000 for cleansing streets and gutters, and 150,000 gallons for public baths and washhouses.

These latter establishments would be of the highest utility in Bridgetown. The only bathing place at present for the people is the sea, to which, of course, they cannot resort except at an early hour, and out of the limits of the town—hence the inconvenience.

Two bath houses for men and women, provided with plunge baths situated in different parts of the town, might be constructed for 1,250*l.* each, and would be a simple means of creating and fostering habits of personal cleanliness among the lower orders.

A slight charge might be made for the convenience, to cover the expenses of superintendence.

The erection of wash-houses will be a matter of necessity. The present practice is for forty or fifty women to get into a pond of turbid water, and to wash all their clothes together, a method much too inconvenient and dirty to be tolerated, when having an ample supply of water suitable accommodation can be afforded. The cost of two wash-houses will be 2,000*l.* sterling.

Sewers.—The system of sewerage I propose is that of earthen or stone-ware pipes. All the house refuse, including the contents of waterclosets, will be delivered by private drains into the main sewers, and conveyed to reservoirs situated in convenient spots beyond the town, when it can be converted into manure for agricultural purposes or allowed to rush into the sea. The sewers will be so constructed as to admit of a concentrated supply of water being directed into them, for the purpose of flushing or scouring them to prevent deposit.

They will also be so arranged as to assist in draining the surface where necessary, although I am of opinion that more good would be effected by allowing the storm waters to run off by surface drains into the sea after cleansing the streets. This good effect would in large measure be lost by leading the surface water in all cases directly into the sewers.

The estimate for this work is 12,777*l.*, including the cost of the private drains to the houses.

Comparing the system here proposed with that advocated by Messrs. "Hammond and Walsh," and approved of by the House of Assembly some years ago, its superiority in point of cheapness will be apparent. The estimate of those gentlemen for the sewerage of the Burnt District, comprising ten acres of land, was 4,700*l.*, exclusive of private drains, which under the same plan would cost about 1,500*l.* more.

The area of Bridgetown is about 400 acres, or 40 times that of the "Burnt District," so that the cost of the construction of sewers for the whole city under the plan recommended by those gentlemen would amount to 248,000*l.* sterling.

The same work can be executed much more efficiently for 12,779*l.* according to the plan proposed by me.

The advantages of the system of pipe sewers over the masonry sewers, are their greater cheapness and facility of construction and efficiency in working. In fact the sewerage of Bridgetown with large masonry sewers would be extremely costly, and when the sewers were built, from their unnecessarily large size and from the roughness of their interior surface impeding the flow of half liquid matter, they would be constantly liable to stoppages and obstruction, and it would be impossible to flush them without such a supply of water as could not be obtained in Bridgetown.

Again, from their enlarged dimensions, and the thickness of the top and bottom of the masonry sewers, there would be great loss of head,—a serious consideration where there is so small a difference of level as in Bridgetown.

Now all these objections are obviated by the pipe sewers. They are much less costly, and more easily built, and do not require the same amount of skilled labour in laying them as is requisite in the construction of the masonry sewers. From the perfect smoothness of their interior, their regularity of form, and the great accuracy of their joints, they present a minimum of resistance to any matter passing through them, while from their lesser size and the inferior thickness of the material of which they are composed, the greatest possible inclination of which the land admits is secured. Another great advantage in the pipe sewers is, that from their moderate size the water admitted into them for flushing instead of wasting its power by running over a large surface, is concentrated in a small space, and is thus enabled to exert all its hydraulic pressure in removing deposit.

Whilst on this subject I would observe, that the introduction of water into Bridgetown without sewers to carry off the waste water, will aggravate the evils at present existing for want of good sewerage. In fact sewerage is the complement to the water supplies, and it is only by their joint action that the benefit and advantages of each can be fully developed. Thus, without sewers there will be either a restriction on the full and legitimate use of the water, from the difficulty of getting rid of the waste water, or if the water is freely used there will be all the nuisances of flooded, damp premises, and foul, stagnant gutters. On the other hand, sewers without water are an impossibility; sewers

BARBADOS.

are the means only—the way of transport for refuse—it is water which is the moving power.

As regards the streets, I would advise that all defects should be repaired, and that proper gutters should be made, with the view of draining the surface and preventing the formation of those pools of dirty water so common at present in the streets in Bridgetown. There should be leading gutters, judiciously laid out with reference to their inclination and means of outlet into the sea, and with these the gutters of the side streets should be connected; the whole forming a system which would speedily and effectually relieve the town of all rain or other water falling on its surface.

With respect to the houses certain regulations might be framed embracing the requirements for different classes.

The most important points would be with reference to the water supply, surface drainage, sewerage, facility of access below the ground-floor, to remove dirt, ventilation and admission of light, non-inflammability of materials; provisions for all of which should be strictly enforced.

In the houses for the lower classes, not less than 1,200 cubic feet of space should be allowed to each individual, nor where two rows of houses are built in a yard should the passage be less than from fifteen to twenty feet. Where there is only a single row of houses twelve to fifteen feet should be the width of the passage, or between the houses and the boundary fence or wall.

The improvement of the Constitution River will form the subject of a separate report, and need not be referred to here.

In conclusion I would observe, that, great as are the evils arising from the imperfect state of the water supply, drainage, and sewerage, &c., in Bridgetown, there is reason to believe that their existence has been greatly connected with and dependent upon the want of exact knowledge on the part of those having influence and authority as to their real magnitude and as to the means of remedying them.

To the few who had given attention to the subject there appeared great obstacles to the execution of the works, either from physical causes or from the impossibility of raising the large amount of money supposed to be necessary for the undertaking.

Under these circumstances, with no local authority capable of correcting the erroneous impressions prevailing as to the possibility of applying to Bridgetown, at a cost not exceeding the means of the island, those extended schemes of sanitary improvement which have been realized in other countries, there were little to encourage activity in those efforts at amelioration which may now be reasonably looked for, when a clear and and connected view is attained both of the evils themselves and the necessary measures of relief.

I have, &c.

Bridgetown, Barbados, Nov. 14. (Signed) LEWIS N. SAMUEL.

Underground Sewers for the City of Bridgetown.

THIS work will be found absolutely indispensable when the town is supplied with water under the arrangements contemplated.

The system of sewerage I propose to adopt is that of pipes of earthen or stone ware. The superiority of this method over all others for the sewerage of towns of moderate extent is incontestable. It is the cheapest in construction, most efficient in action, and most easily maintained in working condition.

By reference to the plan you will observe that the city is divided into six sections, each drained by a distinct main pipe. One of these mains is sixteen inches, four are fifteen, and one twelve inches in diameter. The sewers for the side streets are nine inches and the house drains are from four to five and six inches in diameter. Each main sewer has a separate outlet, and delivers its contents into a small covered tank situated at a convenient distance to avoid nuisance.

The sewerage matter can be converted into manure for agricultural purposes or allowed to run into the sea.

In my estimate is included the cost of house drains, syphons, &c., for 1,800 houses, and also a drain for a watercloset to each of that number of houses.

Provision is made in the waterworks plan for flushing the sewers every day.

(Signed) LEWIS M. SAMUEL.

CHOLERA: its Nature and Mission, and the Facts it has elicited respecting the Condition and Character of the Labouring Population.

[Extracts from an Address read to the members of the Cliff District Agricultural Society at their First Anniversary Meeting, held at Haynesfield Estate by the Hon. G. E. Thomas, M.D., President of the Society.]

OUR meetings have been interrupted for some months in consequence of a visitation from Almighty God, well calculated to awaken the most serious reflections in all the inhabitants of this island.

I am of opinion, that in all its various migrations, cholera has never exercised a more general influence on any community, or manifested greater severity, than in its visitation to this country. I believe, although I state that belief simply on conjecture, and without sufficient data to confirm it, that, supposing the number of inhabitants of the island to have been 140,000 at the period of invasion, 135,000 have been affected more or less with some disturbance of the alimentary canal, that 50,000 of that number have had cholera in its developed form, and that of those so affected, 18,000 or 36 per cent. have perished, making a little more than one seventh of the whole population.

* * * * * * *

From the experience which has been acquired, I think we are justified in arriving at the conclusion, that if those places where human beings congregate together were kept free from impurities which are incidental to human existence, and which defile the person, and contaminate the atmosphere which is respired; and that if the persons themselves abstained from those vices which pollute the soul, and enfeeble the body, as drunkenness and debauchery, then this mysterious disease would cease to afflict humanity.

* * * * * * *

Taking advantage, then, of this knowledge, it well becomes those who possess influence to turn their attention to a subject which naturally affects their own preservation from danger; for the fact is, that these evils, although originating in the abodes of vice and poverty, are not confined to those regions, but extend themselves to other places also, and entail calamities on the wealthier classes. The filthy and the infamous who give origin to contaminating impurities, and other social evils, may be, it is true, the first victims of their own filth and iniquity; but the better classes who stand by, and regard these things with apathy and indifference, are not exempt from their direful influence; they, too, share the common danger, and are subject to be invaded by the same desolating calamities. And, perhaps, this is so ordered to show us that a brotherly and neighbourly feeling should run through the whole of society, and be the connecting link of its various orders, so that neither rich nor poor should live to themselves, and be occupied only with their own things.

* * * * * * *

The opportunities which the prevalence of the epidemic has afforded of free admission into the dwellings of our labourers have shown us, that after a period of sixteen years, during which our peasantry have enjoyed the privileges and benefits of a free people, there have not been introduced among them, those social manners and habits, and those domestic proprieties which contribute to refine and elevate the human character, and which constitute the best enjoyments of civilized life. Indeed I am inclined to think that I am justified in saying that there is absolutely less of home feelings, and affections, and attachments, and less of domestic comfort, and even domestic cleanliness, than existed in the condition of slavery.

Some of the dwellings of our peasantry are positively wretched. Composed of fragile and decayed materials, they scarcely afford protection from the inclemency of the weather, while the interior is dirty and comfortless. Indeed, even among the better sort, among those who aspire to something superior to the old homely thatched habitation, there is not that neatness and cleanliness which used to exist. We observe the clean swept earthern floor replaced by a boarded one, begrimed with dirt; the place of the beautifully scoured crib occupied by a sofa, which, as it has no cover, and consequently cannot be washed, most unbecomingly represents its predecessor; and an air of general untidiness where simplicity and neatness once prevailed. Their dwellings, too, are much more crowded than they used to be. Not only do all the members of a family swarm and herd together, irrespective of sex, but any lodging-place that can be spared from the exigencies of the inmates is, I am led to understand, not unfrequently let out for hire as a night's lodging to any wayfaring person who may chance to require it. During the existence of the cholera scarcely was a blanket to be found to relieve the icy coldness of the body, while it was well known that their boxes were filled with articles of dress of a costly nature, to be exhibited on Sundays, or weddings, or other particular occasions. Scarcely indeed was a comfort of any kind to be found in their dwellings; and that this absence of all that contributes to the respectability and decency of a family, the absence of what may be called humanizing influences, was not owing to any want of means, was proved by the fact that considerable sums of money were known to be in the possession of the inmates of the houses exhibiting this dreary appearance; these sums having been

BARBADOS.

hoarded by self-denial and privation for particular purposes, as funerals, purchase of land, &c. Their means are amply sufficient for all that is necessary for decent and comfortable existence, but they mismanage them. They deny themselves the commonest comforts of life to purchase articles which are perfectly useless to them, and only calculated to gratify a vitiated taste. Their wretched imitation of the habits of the wealthier classes is ridiculous in itself, and positively injurious to the healthy condition both of their minds and bodies. It may not be in our power to apply any direct remedy to the correction of this miserable and absurd taste, but we may discountenance it, and assail it when opportunity occurs, and thus in time induce their childish minds to abandon it; and if we would assist and encourage them in improving their dwellings, and attending more to domestic management, it may be the means of effecting a very salutary change in their habits and manners.

The next subject I shall allude to is one of a more serious nature. I fear that I cannot be contradicted in stating, that the habits of our peasantry are so exceedingly gross as to lead one to infer that they have all along connected the emancipation of their bodies from slavery with a discharge from the obligations of the laws of morality, and that they regard the chief enjoyments of the great boon of liberty as consisting in brutish lusts and degrading sensualities. I may be mistaken, but I believe that their exists among our people an absence of chastity, and that there prevails an extent of illicit commerce which would not be tolerated even in savage life; and I fear I must add, that it is not an uncommon thing for persons placed in offices of responsibility upon estates, whose position and influence should be exercised in checking such vices, and whose example should give a tone to the conduct of those over whom they are placed in authority, even for such persons to degrade themselves by forming, with their subordinates, the most unhallowed alliances. I can hardly imagine anything more detrimental to an estate than such practices. The white servant who is guilty of them, injures his employer, and mars his own happiness and prospects; the black superintendent who avails himself of his position to indulge his profligate propensities is the author of mischief which survives his rule and influence, and which outweighs his services, however valuable they may be esteemed. To connive at such practices on account of serviceable qualities is a suicidal act.

The march of cholera, and its penetrating search into recesses hidden from casual observation, have brought to light a picture both distressing and revolting. It has shown us that a stream of profligacy wider and deeper than was imagined, at least than I imagined, runs through our populous villages, and bears in its foul and muddy course elements destructive to the best interests of society. Young females as they grow up are brought under its deadly sway, and ere they submit to the formality of a marriage have several children, each one of whom owes its existence to a different source. Nor does even the solemnity of the marriage vow operate as a preventive to adultery. In short, libertinism prevails, and the consequence is that the illegitimacy of children exists to a most enormous extent, and is, in my opinion, a greater social evil than the orphanage which the pestilence has occasioned. The poor children whom the cholera has deprived of their parents will find sympathy in the heart of every benevolent individual; but who cares for the offspring of concubinage and prostitution far exceeding the orphans in number, who are deserted and repudiated by their parents, in consequence of the disgrace and trouble they occasion, and who are the pest and opprobium of society? The subject is most painfully distressing, and so revolting that decency is shocked at the bare allusion to it; nor should I feel that I was justified in submitting it to your notice, if I were not deeply impressed with the conviction that the very foundation of our society is jeopardized by it, and that unless we can fasten upon such practices the infamy they deserve, and discountenance them in every possible way, a very melancholy augury must attach to the future prospects of our country. I willingly leave this subject with the hope that it may attract the attention it merits, and that it may please God to assist us in wiping away so foul a blot from our land.

Another point deserving our consideration is the mode in which hired or "extra labour," as it is called, is procured. Practically, my acquaintance with that system is, I am happy to observe, only in a very limited degree, but I know enough of it to persuade me that it is one of a very pernicious tendency, and calculated in every respect to degrade and demoralize the labourer. The collectors of such labour are for the most part persons of unprincipled and abandoned habits. They go about stealthily from place to place to gather whom they can for their purpose. As their own profits depend upon the number they can collect, they are not very discriminating in their choice; consequently the very refuse of our population form an essential part of their gangs. To these are added the young people who are not attached to any estate. These are cajoled to join the vicious ranks by promises which stimulate the corrupt tastes and propensities of human nature. To the recruits so collected are but too commonly superadded the located labourers themselves, whose weak minds, unable to withstand the offer of higher wages than they get at home, made still more seducing by an allowance of rum, yield to the bribery, and lead them to desert their legitimate employers, and to use every species of art and deceit to escape detection. A vast deal of the bickering and heartburnings, and magisterial interference, and the miserable practice of applying double rent to defaulters, owe their origin to this unsatisfactory method of employing labourers. The system is thoroughly vicious in all its bearings; it countenances dishonesty; it rewards profligacy; it introduces habits of socialism between the sexes; it discourages the rising generation from settling themselves

soberly, virtuously, and contentedly upon the estates on which they have been born and reared; it fosters vagrancy; it is a premium on desertion; and it induces young people who are just growing up to over exert themselves, and to injure their health by undertaking tasks for which their strength is unequal. The only cases of cachexy which I have seen of late years have been among those young people who are in the habit of gaining their living in job or steam gangs. The subject is, in my opinion, so detrimental to the growth of morality, and so hurtful to the general wellbeing of estates, that, notwithstanding the facilities which it affords of obtaining labour on particular occasions, yet it demands consideration with a view to its being put upon a different footing. I am aware that I am condemning a system respecting which the agricultural mind may be a little sensitive, but I am sure you will all allow that any practice which is maintained at a sacrifice of moral principle should be discountenanced, however convenient its continuance may be. These evils, calculated in a high degree to undermine the fabric of our society, and to damage our best interests, have been brought so prominently forward by the late afflicting calamity, that I cannot but think, though with humility I express the thought, that it may have been one design of its mission to show us the danger of the ground on which we are standing, and to lead us to take a safer position. If this be the case, we must take heed how we despise such a warning; we must take care not to be indifferent to the chastisement, lest a worse thing come upon us.

I do think that if these evils I have mentioned be of the magnitude and importance which I conceive to be attached to them, it becomes us, as a body of planters, to use our influence and exertions to contend against them. It is true that they may be too gigantic for us to overcome; they may be too inveterate for us to eradicate them; it may cost us much thought and much effort, and our attempts may be attended with much disappointment after all: but still it would be better to attempt something than to sit down with folded hands and connive at crimes and practices which cannot fail to degrade our population, and which are calculated to bring down upon our land God's curse, in the shape of unfruitful seasons, and blights, and pestilential diseases.

Unhappily for us, and for our people, one effect of the emancipation from slavery was the destruction of the patriarchal sentiment, the alienation of minds whose common interest should bind them close together. Now to make any reform we may contemplate successful, it will be necessary to restore this feeling; we must endeavour on our parts to gain the confidence of our people by showing them that the tie which should bind us together is not simply an affair of labour and wages, which is to terminate as soon as those matters are satisfactorily settled. Let us show them that we regard them with other feelings than those which spring from the value of their agricultural services; that we are willing to interest ourselves and to assist them in those things which concern their moral improvement and their temporal welfare. Let us encourage them to look upon us in the light of protectors and advisers, and not with shyness and suspicion.

A great amount of good may also be effected by a cordial combination between those who have the charge of estates and the ministers of religion. These two parties may well work together for so excellent a purpose: the ministerial, by diffusing throughout our society the precepts of the Gospel and the blessings of Christianity; the agricultural, by strengthening the hands of the pastors, by assisting them in their surveillance, supporting them in their rebukes and reproofs, and aiding the ecclesiastical discipline which their office enables them to exercise, in rejecting the vicious and obdurate, and giving every encouragement to the moral and virtuous, irrespective of physical power and usefulness. Rely upon it, that the subject is of sufficient importance to arouse us from languor and indifference. Our own interests, independently of other considerations, exhort us to use every exertion for the removal of those degrading vices, which infest the character of our dependents, and render them objects of disgust. Remember that our prosperity and our domestic comfort are placed in their hands, and that our safety from pestilential diseases may, for ought we know, depend upon their habits.

Nor is it altogether a hopeless task. We see the negro demoralized and crippled in mind by the injury which slavery has inflicted on his mental constitution; but what we see is not his natural character. All travellers who have seen him in his natural state declare, and our own experience must confirm the statement, that he is not incapable of being propitiated by the gentle and affectionate feelings of the heart, and that he is not insensible to kindness and generosity. At any rate there is no alternative before us. We must endure the consequences of the present disgusting and vicious propensities of our peasantry if we cannot reform or improve them; and the consequences are of a serious nature, for they involve the demoralization of the rising generation. The bad example and the inveterate habits of the parents neutralize the little and imperfect education which the children receive, who, as they grow up, will necessarily indulge in all kinds of vicious propensities, unless there be some counteracting principle, some controlling discipline, to restrain them. Nor is it because we live in a West India colony, and have such a population as ours to deal with, that the consideration of the question is beset with difficulty. Even in England the management of the labouring classes is found to be a social problem very difficult to work out, and a fit subject for the employment of the talents of the greatest statesmen and philanthropists.

BARBADOS.

I fear I have trespassed on your time, and taken an undue liberty with you in intruding on your notice my own opinions and feelings on a subject of considerable delicacy. It is, nevertheless, in my estimation, a matter of great importance, and should not be lightly disposed of. If the existence of the late epidemic among us has brought to light a large amount of destitution and depravity, it has also discovered a large amount of generosity and benevolence, and ability for good and useful purposes. While the pestilence raged and dangers thickened, every man, from the highest to the lowest, seemed to lay aside all narrow and selfish suggestions, and to be animated alone by the disinterested feelings of duty. No one can calculate the extent of good which was effected by the extraordinary exertions which were thus brought to bear on the wants of poverty and the ravages of disease. In the same way no one can predict the amount of benefit which may be wrought upon the ignorance and depravity of our peasantry if the same spirit and the same exertions be directed towards their improvement. Every man of any mind possesses a secret influence over his dependents, and is able, by the tone of his conversation and the still more powerful eloquence of his example, to develope and call forth latent emotions which may lead to good or evil. Let us exercise this moral influence for good, and if, with God's blessing, we can use it successfully, we shall never have occasion to regret the trial ; and even should the flood of iniquity be so powerful as to overwhelm the attempt, and to prevail in spite of our exertions, then we shall have at least the satisfaction to know that we have done our part.

GRENADA.

GRENADA.

No. 13.

No. 13.

Copy of a DESPATCH from Governor-General Sir W. M. G. Colebrooke to the Right Hon. Lord John Russell.

(No. 40.)

Windward Islands, Barbados, June 18, 1855.

My Lord, (Received, July 23, 1855.)

No. 61, 22d May 1855. / No. 320, 18th June 1855.

I have the honour to forward a Despatch from the Lieut.-Governor of Grenada, with the "Blue Book" for 1854, together with a copy of my answer to the Lieut.-Governor.

I have, &c.

(Signed) W. M. G. COLEBROOKE.

The Right Hon. Lord John Russell,
&c. &c. &c.

Encl. 1. in No. 13.

Enclosure 1. in No. 13.

Copy of a Despatch from Lieutenant-Governor Keate to Governor-General Sir W. M. G. Colebrooke.

(No. 61.)

Government House, Grenada, May 22, 1855.

Sir, (Received June 16, 1855.)

I have the honour to forward to your Excellency the "Blue Book" for Grenada for 1854, together with the returns of the stipendiary magistrates for the same period, the substance of which is incorporated in it. I also enclose an abstract of all the returns of which it is composed, and a report upon the present condition of the Government House, in obedience to the instructions of the Secretary of State as conveyed to me in your Excellency's Circular Despatch of the 6th September last, which with a plan of the building has been prepared for me by the surveyor of roads, public works, and buildings.

2. Sir George Grey having, when acknowledging the receipt of the "Blue Book" for 1853, signified his wish that I should avail myself of all proper means of acting in accordance with the views I advocated in my report which accompanied it, I shall endeavour on the present occasion to show what progress has already been made in that direction.

3. The Supply Act for the year 1854, the usual annual exponent of the financial arrangements of the colony, had passed the Council and Assembly in the early part of the month of November 1853, a few days before I assumed the administration of the Government, and was therefore framed without any

reference to such views. It was characterized by the same absence of accurate balancing of ways and means with probable outlay, which, when reviewing the transactions of 1853, I pointed out as arising among other causes from the experienced facility of drawing, in emergencies, upon the so-called Immigration Fund. It is true that with the general intention of meeting deficiencies already existing or evidently impending, some additional taxation was imposed by the Act, but these do not appear to have been correctly ascertained or estimated, nor was any further relief proposed to be afforded by casting a portion of the expenditure upon special local sources.

4. The additional taxation consisted chiefly in an increase of the rates of previous assessments, the only new fiscal principle introduced being that of subjecting boats and canoes to a licence fee. An important innovation, however, was made in the formal application to the ordinary exigencies of the colony of that which had hitherto been reserved, in theory at least, for recruiting the labour market, namely, a tax upon the consumption of rum.

5. The first quarter of 1854 had not elapsed before it became evident that the causes which had led to the unfavourable disparity between the revenue and expenditure, which had resulted at the close of 1853, were still operating; that no efficient means had yet been devised for counteracting them, and that the arrangements made, such as they were, had not yet had the effect of bringing the receipts of the treasury to keep pace with its disbursements, whatever they might be expected to do before the year was out. To remedy this state of things the treasury was at once replenished by pouring into it a sum of 3,000*l.*, taken from the accumulations of the immigration fund; but the recurrence to this expedient, and to such an extent, so soon after the passing of the Supply Act, awakened the Legislature to the necessity of placing its finances on a less precarious footing; and the more so, as it was plain this resource could not be much longer relied on if future demands upon it were to continue, like the present one, to be in their amount nearly double the annual additions made to it. I took advantage of this emergency to urge upon the attention of the Assembly two of the measures advocated in my last "Blue Book Report," by the first of which I proposed, while preserving to their legitimate use the future proceeds of the immigration tax, to increase permanently the general revenue, and by the second to relieve it permanently of a heavy item of expenditure.

6. Resolutions were passed adopting the principle of these measures, and I was in hopes that Acts based upon them might have been matured at once, and have come simultaneously into operation, so as to have an immediate effect upon the financial condition of the colony; but so much care and consideration were requisite in framing them that such rapid legislation was found to be impossible.

7. The mode in which the revenue was to be increased by the first Act was by substituting for the two rates of duties imposed upon the consumption of rum under the annually renewed Acts for raising funds for immigration and the Supply Act, one uniform and permanent rate, about one third higher in amount than the two combined, two thirds of which were to be applied to general, and one third to immigration purposes. But an improvement in the mode of collecting the tax was as much needed as an augmentation of the rate at which it was fixed, or a redistribution of its proceeds. The old Acts had been found to be essentially faulty in this particular, and much of the progressive decrease in the annual receipts from this source was attributable to the facility with which frauds on the revenue could be perpetrated under them. Some time elapsed, therefore, before a well digested measure, providing for both these objects could be prepared and passed. Two more quarters of the year had gone by before it came into force, and the receipts of the Treasury had, consequently, hardly begun to be influenced by it when the year reached its termination.

8. The object of the other measure resolved upon was to take out of the general schedule of expenditure in which they had hitherto figured annually for a large sum, the making and repair of the public highways, and to provide for them by an organized system of statute labour, commutable by a money payment. Still more time was occupied in framing and discussing the bill for effecting this than in the former case. Its principle, indeed, was not quite a new one to the colony, for the public byeways were supposed to be maintained by something like compulsory labour, but no machinery existed for its effectual application. It was in devising such that difficulty was experienced and delay occasioned in preparing the measure to be introduced. Eventually it was framed

GRENADA.

and brought in very much on the model of the Ceylon Road Ordinance, but at the close of the year it had only passed one branch of the Legislature. Since the commencement of the present year it has become law, and is at this moment being put into execution.

9. It was the more important that steps should be taken for thus developing the resources of the country, as while, on the one hand, the means relied on for meeting its requirements were being proved inadequate, increased expenditure under one or two heads was evidently impending on the other. The contemplated withdrawal of the garrison had shown the necessity of an augmentation of the police force and the enrolment of a militia. The salary of a surveyor of roads, public works, and buildings was to be provided in connexion with the new Road Act, and various measures of improvement in the judicial and civil establishments were under consideration, which could not be carried out without some additional outlay. Fortunately it was found possible, in the sequel, to postpone the greater part of these new items of expenditure to the present year, for not only had circumstances, as I have related, prevented the immediate adoption of the financial changes proposed, and thrown the colony back again on the arrangements of the Supply Act, but an event occurred which, among other disastrous consequences, enhanced the operation of the causes which were already affecting injuriously the existing sources of the revenue, and cast upon them at the same time a variety of fresh charges, totally unexpected and unprovided for; I mean the outbreak of Asiatic cholera.

10. Exclusive of these extraordinary charges, which, though liquidated, with few exceptions, before the year was out, were in the end separately met by a further appropriation from the immigration fund under the provisions of the Supply Act for 1855, operating to this extent retrospectively, the total expenditure of the year exceeded its general revenue by 2,529*l.* 11*s.* 2*d.*, thus corroborating the impression produced in the early part of the year that the arrangements made at the close of 1853 were insufficient. The deficiency intended to be made good by them had arisen principally from a large diminution in the receipts from customs, tonnage, and water dues on shipping; but it seems to have been taken for granted that this falling off had reached its limits. So far was this from being the case, that the additional taxation then imposed did little more than fill up the fresh vacuum created under these heads within the year itself, exhibiting, as they did, a further fall to the extent of 1,767*l.* 19*s.* 6*d.*, while the other sources of revenue, including the additions made to them, produced only 1,983*l.* 7*s.* 11*d.* beyond what they had yielded in the previous year.

11. But though the time has not yet arrived for estimating fully the financial effects of the two new measures resorted to, they have produced, in other points of view, results which are already appreciable. So long as the Acts for raising funds for immigration required annual renewal, their proceeds might indeed have been applied in a direct manner to furthering the object proposed, but they could not be relied on, as it was intended they should be, as a basis on which to obtain money for the purpose by way of loan. The new Act having, however, been passed in a permanent shape, this difficulty has now been removed, and advantage has already been taken of the circumstance to set aside by positive enactment that portion of the funds to accrue under it which is applicable to immigration, as a provision for the interest and sinking fund of the loan of 7,000*l.* authorized to be raised by this colony under the guarantee of Great Britain, and thus to obviate all danger of future diversions of it to other objects. This is a great point gained, and I hope in a short time to be able to announce that the remaining step has also been taken by the passing of the bill, which has been for some time before the Legislature, for regulating the mode in which immigrants are to be procured and employed.

12. In consequence of the advanced stage which the new Road Bill had reached previously to the close of the year, the Assembly was led to omit all mention of the repairs of the roads in the Supply Act for 1855. Though, therefore, it was at that time still uncertain whether the particular mode in which it was proposed to meet this important item of expense would ultimately be adopted, the principle was at all events effectually recognized of relieving the general revenue of it, and casting it upon special sources. The extension to other matters of the system of taxation thus introduced will no doubt be facilitated or retarded, as the case may be, by the amount of success which may attend this experiment. The machinery by which it is to be carried out is of

a kind to be turned at once to any purpose for which the acquiring of detailed information on the one hand and the collection or distribution of small sums on the other are required, and I have urged its application to the establishment of a tariff of compulsory educational fees, and of a system of parochial rating for the relief of the poor, and for medical attendance upon them.

13. But my views have been advanced by the passing of this Act in another particular also, on which I spoke strongly in my last report. I adverted therein to the wasteful and unprofitable expenditure of public money not only on the repairs of the roads but in the execution of all kinds of public works, owing to the absence of anything like scientific knowledge among those who had the management of the funds granted for these purposes. A properly qualified surveyor of roads, public works, and buildings has now been appointed under the Act, who is charged with the superintendence of all such matters, and without whose certificate as to the due performance of all contracts relating to them no payments will hereafter be made so long as the Act is in force. I believe that whatever outlay may be necessary in the first instance to retrieve the errors which have been committed, and to prevent further dilapidations of public property, great and permanent saving to the colony will be the ultimate result of the policy which has been thus adopted.

14. The progressive decrease in the customs receipts which gave the impetus to this incipient change in the financial system of the colony was no doubt occasioned in great measure by circumstances unconnected with the locality, and was largely enhanced in the year under review by the cessation of all commercial undertakings during the prevalence of the cholera. Causes, however, which appear at first to be temporary in their nature are apt to become permanent by the force of their own operation. An accidental stoppage in the supply of accustomed articles of consumption occurring among persons who are already looking about them for the means of curtailing their personal expenses is not unlikely to produce a habit of dispensing altogether, where possible, with such articles, or at all events considerably to reduce the ordinary demand for them. The aim of legislation on this class of subjects under such circumstances should therefore be to endeavour to check this tendency, and to provide, so far as it is within its province and power to do so, that when the supply reassumes its wonted regularity, the demand shall not have fallen short in its turn. This can only be done by using the opportunity to lower import duties, and to remove or relax impediments in the way of trade. It is, moreover, not only just but positively necessary that, as direct taxation increases indirect pressure should diminish, otherwise that which was intended to be a substitution becomes an additional burden, and the objects aimed at fail consequently of their accomplishment. With this view I have strongly recommended a revision of the import tariff, and a reduction of the rates of duties, especially upon articles of food, and though no such step has yet been taken there appears to be a growing feeling in favour of it. In the meantime alterations of an important kind tending to the same end have been made in the mode of levying tonnage dues, which are already beginning to have the effect of attracting to the ports of Grenada more of that casual, and, if I may so call it, retail species of commerce which best suits the present circumstances of the community. Payment is now made in proportion to the value of the quantity of goods discharged, and not, as was previously the case, upon the whole tonnage of the vessel discharging.

The full effects of this arrangement upon the trade of the place will, however, only be ascertained when a sufficient time has elapsed for the change in the law to become more widely known.

15 But whatever exertions may be made and with whatever degree of success gradually to introduce a more reliable system of raising the requisite supplies, I am convinced that a fair yearly balancing of revenue and expenditure, and a really healthy condition of the public treasury, will never be obtained so long as the executive government is in nowise responsible for the preparation of the annual estimates of ways and means and expenditure, and has no constitutional control over or recognized right to manage the finances of the colony. Not only are they at present subject to no regulated control, consistent with the theoretic distinctions between executive and legislative functions, but they are not even practically under such management as it might be supposed would naturally grow out of the exigencies of the case. They

GRENADA.

are, in fact, in a complete state of anarchy. The simple process by which all the real difficulties in the preparation of a financial statement are now met is by lumping together under the head of extraordinaries all contingent expenditure except such as is of so customary and unfluctuating a nature as scarcely to come within that category, and the sum set apart for these is fixed not upon any carefully considered estimates of the requirements of the different branches of the public service, but apparently by the extent of the margin left after providing for the settled and more easily ascertainable items out of an amount arbitrarily set down beforehand as the total outlay to be incurred during the year. The probable proceeds of the various sources of revenue being calculated in a manner equally arbitrary, and set down at a figure equally the result of guesswork, the apparent squaring of accounts thus made is obviously a mere delusion. Upon this vote for extraordinaries are heaped one after another all charges which are not otherwise specially provided for, very little, if any, inquiry being ever made as to its capacity to bear them, for it is no one's business or interest to do so. As under such a system, if it may be called one, the grant is pretty sure to be exhausted at an early period of the year, and great practical inconvenience to be thereby entailed, comparative profusion at one time is generally followed by an undue withholding of means at another, and not only therefore is it a matter of mere chance whether the proportion of public money set apart for contingencies is spent upon objects of immediate or of secondary importance, but additional expense is in the end thrown upon the colony by the former, however pressing they may be, being in too many instances unavoidably postponed to the latter.

16. There exists, however, I regret to perceive, a very strong indisposition on the part of the House of Assembly to remedy this acknowledged evil, arising, I am fully convinced, out of an erroneous impression as to the purport of the proposals which have been submitted to it on the subject. The obstacle to reform in this, as in many other matters, is the prevalence of a most unfounded idea, that the privileges of the Assembly are continually exciting the jealousy of the Executive, and that in this particular instance some covert onset is being made on its right to raise and appropriate the public revenue. The distinction between the legislative act of raising and appropriating the revenue, and the administrative one of controlling and managing the finances, is so very obvious that such a misconception could scarcely arise if the question were really considered on its merits. I need hardly say that the object in view is not to curtail in the slightest degree or to interfere with the former, but simply to call out of abeyance the power of performing the latter. If the legislative privilege possessed and exercised by the Assembly in this respect includes, as I conceive it does, a right to take a part in the administrative business connected with it, it is at all events one which at present it does not and cannot exercise, because no contrivance exists by which the joint action absolutely requisite for administrative purposes can be given to bodies which in their legislative capacities act separately.

17. An endeavour was made on the occasion of framing the bill lately passed for remodelling the office of Public Treasurer to call into life this dormant principle of joint administrative action in a very simple manner by converting the present Committee of Public Accounts, which consists of members of both branches of the Legislature, and is now merely a board for auditing accounts of monies already expended, into a finance committee, and investing it among other things with the duty of preparing, with the assistance of the Executive, the yearly estimates. These it was proposed should be brought forward by the members of the committee having seats in the Assembly, who were either to initiate all money votes or to sanction by their previous approval those mooted by individual members. But in order to put this committee into communication with the Executive, for otherwise the most purely administrative element of the three which were to be combined would be totally excluded, it was necessary so far to change its constitution as to arrange that in future its members should be appointed by the Governor instead of being chosen as at present by the Council and Assembly respectively. The defect in this proposal, which not unnaturally, as I think, indisposed the Assembly to its adoption, was, that it withdrew from it the power of nominating its own members to a board which after all was to bear no other character than that of a joint committee of the two Houses of the Legislature, with appointments to which the Executive

has of course nothing to do. Rather than accept the benefit of an alliance with the Executive on such terms, the Assembly preferred the prolongation of the existing anarchy in financial matters.

18. But it has always struck me that much of this suspiciousness as to the designs of the Executive is attributable to the total estrangement from its councils to which the elected branch of the Legislature is subjected by the constitution of the colony. I alluded fully to this circumstance in my last Report, and suggested a method of remedying it by changing the composition of the Executive Council. The proposal above alluded to was in fact nothing more than a modification, by leaving out its most important feature, of this suggestion, which was to reconstruct the Executive Council in such a manner as to admit into it members of the lower as well as of the upper House. Out of such Council, appointed of course by the Crown, I further proposed to form an administrative committee, which in that case would be no longer a joint committee of the two Houses, but a Committee of Council, and as such necessarily appointed by the Governor. Though the Assembly some time ago assented by resolution to the former part of this proposition, and a bill has recently been introduced for giving it as well as the latter part practical effect, I much fear that the failure of the attempt to carry out its principle in a modified form, trenching, as it certainly did, however unintentionally, on the privileges of the Assembly, will delay, if it does not ultimately defeat, the success of the measure. If the Executive had had any sort of organ of communication with the Assembly, to supply which was one of the objects of the projected change, such an inadvertency could hardly have occurred.

19. If but little has yet been done in regard to other matters adverted to in my Report, what has been effected has at all events cleared the way for further progress. More no doubt would have been achieved but for the total cessation of all legislative proceedings during the prevalence of the cholera. As it was, no less than eighteen Acts, a number far exceeding the usual average, were carried in the course of the year, and several measures since matured, or which are still under discussion, went through their earlier stages before its close.

20. Among the latter is a bill to improve the educational institutions of the country, a subject which causes me much anxiety. This bill has passed the Assembly, and is now before the Council, but it is with few alterations the counterpart of one which had reached that stage a short time before and been rejected. Considerable amendments will, therefore, have to be made in it before it will assume such a shape as to be really conducive to the end in view. Grants for educational purposes have hitherto been made absolutely to the rectors of the several parishes and other ministers of religion in their different localities on no very fixed or intelligible principle of proportion, except perhaps so far as the Church of England is concerned; and this rather in respect to the extent of the parishes than to the number of their inhabitants attached to its tenets. The custom of giving assistance to other communities is of comparatively recent growth, and was brought about not in consequence of the adoption of any general change of system or policy, but by a gradual accumulation of exceptional instances. It has been proposed to obviate what appears to be an unfairness of distribution on the one hand, and to create local interest in the matter on the other, by making the grants conditional on a certain amount of private subscriptions being contributed. In the present circumstances of the colony, and in the present state of the educational question in it, I fear the introduction of such a proviso would produce one only advantage, that of saving the public money, not however by substituting voluntary subscriptions, but by reducing the number of grants. Even if the benefits of education were in general sufficiently appreciated, which they certainly are not, to enable those who take an interest in the matter to get together at the outset, by their personal influence and exertions, such sums as would entitle them to grants, they would be sure to meet with the result which always attends in this colony schemes based in any degree upon voluntary assistance. The demand for a repetition of the subscriptions from year to year or at stated periods would speedily become irksome; contributions would drop off one after another and eventually cease altogether, and to the difficulties already to be contended with would be added the perpetual uncertainty of being able to maintain in future years what with so much pains had been established. Petitions to the Legislature for grants irrespectively of such conditions would speedily ensue, and be

GRENADA.

acceded to in consideration of the difficulties of complying with them, and as saving trouble and annoyance; and the principle of localizing educational efforts, so far from being advanced, would be looked upon as having been tried and found wanting. To obtain this end, the contributions instead of being voluntary, must be made obligatory, and this may be done either by an educational rate to fall on all householders, or by the establishment of a general tariff of school fees to be payable compulsorily by all parents and guardians of children within specified ages. Unless one or other of these plans be engrafted upon the provisions of the bill which is under discussion, I shall feel but little confidence in its machinery of boards and inspectors, for however valuable these may be for administering the funds provided and for improving the organisation of schools and the quality of the instruction given in them, they will not of themselves have any material influence in recruiting the number of scholars, or in overcoming that wide-spread indifference to the advantages of education which is the chief obstacle to improvement.

21. So soon as this subject and that of immigration, which is in about the same state of forwardness, are disposed of, there are none to which the attention of the Legislature should be turned with such earnestness as those which have reference to the sanitary condition of the island and its inhabitants. I have recommended as a necessary preliminary to all improvement in this respect that the local boards of health should be entirely remodelled and put upon a better footing. Their present constitution is cumbrous and unwieldy in the extreme, and such as they are they are practically non-existent except when the dangers to be guarded against are so closely impending that preventive measures become almost impossible. A recollection of the comparatively unprepared state in which the outbreak of cholera found the island ought to have impressed on all thinking minds in it the necessity of giving a more permanent character to the working of the boards and through them to the enforcement of those precautionary regulations which are now only acted upon in moments of panic. Much of that predisposition to diseases liable from time to time to become epidemic which is observable in the population of Grenada is to be attributed to causes requiring for their removal the influence and extension of education and enlightenment rather than of sanitary arrangements, but a more continuous observance of the latter, however secondary in their effects, is not the less important. Much zeal and energy were displayed on all sides immediately before and during the prevalence of the late epidemic, and no doubt would be again in a like emergency, but such voluntary efforts cease with the occasions which call them forth, and produce no abiding results. The law as it now stands operates only to give some sort of temporary consistency to convulsive action of this nature, and by so doing to check rather than encourage perseverance and foresight. So far as my observation goes, the colony is at this moment in precisely the same condition in a sanitary point of view as it was previously to the late outbreak, and as little prepared for a fresh one, and so it will remain until a totally different principle is introduced into the constitution of its boards of health, and they are made the guardians of the health of the community under ordinary as well as under exceptional circumstances, and are armed with the requisite powers of insuring it so far as human means can go, instead of being as at present little more than consultative bodies, never called into play but on occasions when the time for deliberation has well nigh passed away.

22. Sanitary precautions being of course of greater consequence in towns than in country districts, it is fortunate in the absence of such, that the situation of St. George's, the principal town of Grenada, is naturally salubrious. It was, moreover, one of the first in the West Indies to furnish itself with a regular and constant supply of water. The waterworks as they now exist were commenced in 1835, and finished, so far as the town itself is concerned, in 1837; but additions were made to them in 1841 for the better accommodation of the shipping in the harbour. The pipes laid down were guaranteed to last a certain number of years, which has been long exceeded without their having been replaced, and though petty repairs have been continually going on, they are now so completely worn out as to demand entire renewal. The spring from which the water is derived is not on a sufficiently high level to admit of its being carried into the upper parts of the town without some kind of forcing apparatus being employed, and considerations of expense prevented this part of

the original plan being adopted. It is obviously very desirable both for health and convenience sake that in undertaking the restoration of the old works the opportunity should not be lost of extending their usefulness so as to embrace the whole of the town, and for this purpose endeavours have been made to discover other sources of supply in more elevated localities. The distance, however, from town of such as have been hit upon is so great that, independently of other objections, they could not be rendered available except at a cost far beyond what would be incurred by having recourse to forcing power; and it is to this point, therefore, that I shall direct the attention of the Surveyor of Public Works, having had the benefit of a conversation on the subject with the projector and constructor of the original works, who was on a visit to the island a short time ago. The subjoined account of the receipts and expenditure, which, with the addition of the two years that have elapsed since that time, is a transcript of one forwarded to your Excellency by the President then administering the Government in his Despatch of the 24th September 1853, No. 66, will show in what manner the establishment has been maintained. It appears that though by the preamble of the Act under which the supply of water was introduced into the town, it was provided that the expenses should be defrayed by a loan advanced from the Public Treasury, to be repaid with interest by the appropriation of the yearly revenue of the canal duties, and by an assessment on houses, yet the funds were never kept separate from the general revenue of the colony, nor was the interest regularly charged. Probably it was found in practice more convenient to apply at once the surplus revenue of each year, as it accrued, to aid in meeting the ordinary expenditure, than to shift it backwards and forwards from one account to another previously to doing so. As, however, the Public Treasury is not now in a position to advance the necessary funds for the repairs and extension required and projected, I am of opinion that the interest and sinking fund of a loan, to be obtained for the purpose in other quarters, might be provided for in the same manner as was intended to be done by the Act alluded to. The matter is at present entirely in embryo, but it is not impossible that it may receive an impetus in the course of the year by the establishment of a municipal corporation in St. George's, which would naturally be interested in forwarding any scheme having for its object the improvement and welfare of the town and its inhabitants.

23. But there is another work absolutely necessary to be undertaken if positive obstructions to the healthy condition of the town are to be removed, namely, the filling in or otherwise doing away with two small morasses in its immediate vicinity, one at the head of the harbour and the other of an adjoining inlet called the Lagoon. I adverted in my last Report to the circumstances which had prevented the Harbour Commissioners from taking any steps for several years past to clear away the accumulations of drift which are gradually choking up and contracting the circumference of the harbour. They are hardly yet in funds to enable them to purchase the machinery required for doing so; but every year adds, though slowly, to their resources, and I am looking forward to the time when two works of almost equal importance may be going on simultaneously and with mutual assistance the one to the other, that is to say, the deepening of the water in the harbour and the filling in with the deposits extracted from it of that one at least of the two morasses I have mentioned which, as being at its head, and the nearest consequently to the town, is the most prejudicial to the public health.

24. One result of the cholera, I regret to say, has been materially to add to the average number of inmates of the St. George's Gaol. Some portion of this increase must no doubt be attributed to the extended jurisdiction given by recent legislation to the local magistrates, as well as to the improvement and augmentation of the police, by which the apprehension and conviction of offenders has been much facilitated. But the bands which hold society together must always be relaxed more or less by such visitations, and according to the character, disposition, and circumstances of the communities affected, the disorganization which ensues takes the form of popular outbreaks or of isolated offences against persons and property. The peasantry of Grenada have no talent for insurrections, but their impulses lead them frequently to commit grave assaults upon each other, and they are particularly adroit in every sly and cunning trick by which they may appropriate to themselves what does not

GRENADA.

belong to them. Though submissive enough to the outward forms of the churches and religious societies to which they belong, they do not appear to be under any very efficient moral control. During the cholera panic they clung more closely than ever to the former, and the result has not been in every point of view a happy one. By way of compounding for the sin of living in concubinage, which is habitual with so many of them, a number of hasty and improvident marriages were celebrated, in most cases illegally, which being afterwards looked upon, when the momentary fear of consequences had passed away, as mere matters of form, gone through for a specific object under the pressure of circumstances, have been followed in too many instances by ill-treatment, desertion, and of course renewed concubinage. Nor does it appear to have been thought incompatible with such outward observances to take advantage of the opportunity offered by the desolation of so many households to ransack their hidden treasures. The miserly propensity for hoarding, burying, or otherwise concealing their earnings, at the expense of their own comfort and that of their families, which is characteristic of Grenada negroes, and I believe of the race in general, is well known and calculated upon among themselves, and if a blind fear of contagion kept away neighbourly attentions from the bedsides of the dying, it was not strong enough to overcome the cupidity which attracted them to the temporarily deserted dwellings where death had been. Detection and punishment have followed in but few cases on these delinquencies, but a general increase of indictable offences has naturally resulted from such a state of demoralization. Evidences are not wanting of a gradual return to more orderly habits, but in the meantime a positive inconvenience has been created by the overcrowding of the St. George's gaol, which had already begun to be looked upon as too small for the requirements of the colony.

25. I anticipated the possibility of appropriating one of the military buildings, lately become the property of the colony, to the formation of a more commodious prison, in which a proper classification of inmates, and some approach to a reformatory discipline, might have been effected, and I had fixed upon the citadel in Fort George as the spot best adapted to the purpose; but upon a thorough inspection and survey of the edifice, it has been pronounced to be in such a state of dilapidation, and to be moreover so inadequate in size, unless very extensive additions were made to it, that I have been obliged to give up the idea; I do so, however, with the less reluctance, because among the different parcels of land transferred to the local authorities is one small lot occupied only by some stables, which immediately adjoins the present gaol. All difficulties in respect to space, which have hitherto stood in the way of the enlargement of the present premises, are therefore removed. The site itself is in no way objectionable, but, on the contrary, is both convenient and healthy. There is naturally at this moment great indisposition to incur any additional outlay, even for so pressing an object, until the finances of the island are in a more flourishing condition; but the urgency of the case must necessarily ere long swallow up all other considerations. I subjoin a copy of a report made to me on this subject by the inspector of prisons.

26. I am unwilling to close this report without making some remarks on the agricultural prospects of the island, especially as regards its staple produce; but the colony appears to me to be in so transitional and exceptional a state in this respect that it would be premature to attempt to draw any conclusions concerning them. Putting out of view all those extraneous circumstances which affect the sugar-growing interest in general, and which the Grenada planter must struggle against but cannot obviate by any exertions of his own, and considering only the immediate local cause which hampers all his efforts, namely, the paucity of available labour, it is evident that the sudden and unexpected diminution of the population by no less than 3,788 souls, at a time when immigration was being ardently looked to to supply the already existing deficiency, must have placed him in a condition of peculiar difficulty.

27. The total cessation of all labour which prevailed during the epidemic was followed by a very gradual and uncertain resumption of it, and this character of uncertainty is still maintained, and is the most discouraging feature of the results of the visitation, so far as they are yet appreciable. The hiatus created has no doubt been filled up to some extent by the return to plantation labour of many persons who, from having neglected during the panic the cultivation of their own small settlements, were unable for

a time to depend upon them for their livelihood, and the abandonment during the year of several smaller plantations, hastened possibly, but not caused by the ravages of the cholera, has assisted the remaining estates by releasing, to their benefit, the remnant of the labour previously employed upon them. But there is no element of certainty or permanency in either of these accidental reinforcements: in the former instance unwilling workmen have been obtained anxious to return to their former mode of life on the first opportunity, and to resume their independence; and in the latter it is hardly likely that families scattered by the breaking-up of estates will fix themselves in any numbers as located labourers on other estates, when every such abandonment offers further facilities for their becoming independent settlers in their turn. These temporary supplies, however, have been very convenient and acceptable, as serving to occupy a space which it was feared would have remained empty, and to raise a hope that the exertions of the planters may, after all, not become entirely paralyzed, as at one time seemed likely, before immigration can step in to their rescue.

28. If, under these circumstances, the cost of producing sugar is in this island necessarily so large as to leave, when the commercial expenses connected with it are taken into the account, scarcely any margin for profits, a kind of compensation is not wanting. It will be observed, on referring to the returns of exports, that rum to the value of no less than 29,637*l.* was exported during the year under review, to which should be added the price of the 50,000 gallons sold and consumed within the colony. By far the greater part of this is sheer gain to the producers. So long as this article bears a fair price, and any sort of hope continues to be entertained of a possible future improvement in that of sugar, those estates the proprietors of which are in a position to incur the heavy outlay incidental to their cultivation, and which are in themselves favourably circumstanced as regards soil and situation, will, I have little doubt, if labour is procurable, be maintained in operation, but numbers I fear must be abandoned which do not share in any of these advantages. If the fancied possibility of a return to the principle of differential duties were still the sole ground of the planters' hopes, I should look upon them as purely delusive, but I am glad to observe that attention is beginning to be turned to the opening of new markets rather than to the artificial improvement of old ones. The proposition of the Canadian Legislature to establish a free interchange of the productions of all the British colonies in America, though it has not yet been responded to by the Legislature of Grenada, has served at all events to give a wider range to thought and opinion upon this subject. Indications are not wanting of such a gradual change being going on in the policy of foreign nations as may lead eventually to the emancipation of these colonies from their dependence upon the comparatively restricted markets to which they have at present access, and in my humble view of the case, the attainment of this object would be the commencement of a new era of prosperity for them.

29. But, however this may be, it is quite evident that the most pressing want of this colony at the present moment is labour. By the operation of the West India Encumbered Estates Act, which in all probability will shortly be put in force in Grenada, a fresh start might no doubt be given to its industry by the opportunity afforded to capitalists to invest their money in estates unfettered by collateral claims, and with unquestionable titles, but such purchasers can hardly be expected to come forward until it can be shown with some degree of certainty that the physical means of cultivating the land thus offered to them will not be wanting. It is very doubtful whether even then anything like a resuscitation of the estates which have already been abandoned would ensue, if the production of sugar and rum upon them were still to be the object aimed at. Many of them, however, are by nature much better adapted to other kinds of culture, and it is probable they will eventually fall into the hands of persons capable of appreciating this fact, and acting upon it. The produce of the island in cocoa, coffee, nutmegs, and other spices is already beginning to assume an importance hitherto unknown to it, and I am inclined to think the natural and, therefore, healthy development of minor branches of agricultural industry which is thus going on will exercise a very considerable influence upon the future prospects of the colony.

I have, &c.

(Signed) ROBERT W. KEATE.

Governor Sir W. M. G. Colebrooke,
&c. &c. &c.

GRENADA.

ABSTRACT RETURNS, "Blue Book," 1852, 1853, and 1854.

Revenue.

Year.	Customs Duties. Imports.	Customs Duties. Exports.	Customs Duties. Tonnage.	Assessed and other Taxes.	Total.	Increase.	Decrease.
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
1852	9,638	Nil.	1,092	6,636	17,366	410	–
1853	8,613	Nil.	858	5,567	15,038	–	2,328
1854	6,963	Nil.	765	7,538	15,266	228	–

Expenditure, Colonial.

Year.	Civil Government.	Judicial.	Ecclesiastical.	Education.	Police.	Prisons.	Other Expenditure.	Total.	Increase.	Decrease.
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
1852	3,995	820	2,313	851	2,329	352	6,234	16,894	1,410	–
1853	4,122	820	2,478	1,097	2,358	390	5,865	17,130	236	–
1854	4,116	820	2,507	1,081	2,448	759	6,313	18,044	914	–

Expenditure, Local and Parochial.

Year.	Poor.	Roads.	All other Parochial Charges.	Total.	Remarks.
			£	£	
1852	Included in other Expenditure.		576	576	Colony hospital expenditure.
1853			1,307	1,307	Colony hospital, streets, and harbour expenditures, not inserted in former Blue Books.
1854			1,092	1,092	

Expenditure, Great Britain.

Year.	Civil.	Military.	Total.	Remarks.
	£	£	£	
1852	3,872	10,519	14,391	1st column includes salaries of Governor, stipendiary magistrates, customs officers, and postmistress.
1853	3,520	10,217	13,737	
1854	3,445	1,918 (Ordnance)	5,363	2d column, all military expenses except those for 1854, which includes only the Ordnance expenditure. The Commissariat Establishment having been withdrawn previously to the close of the year.

Population (estimated).

Year.	Males.	Females.	Total.	Remarks.
1852	15,713	16,958	32,671	Per Census taken on 3d October 1851.
1853	- -	- -	34,077	Estimated decrease from mortality by cholera.
1854	- -	- -	31,187	

Land.

Year.	Area in Square Miles.	Acreage under Cultivation.	Remarks.
1852	133	14,788	The returns are not to be depended upon.
1853		17,722	
1854		13,220	

Coins and Currency.

Year.	Specie in Circulation.	Notes in Circulation.	Remarks.
1852 1853 1854	Estimated at £30,000.	Not known.	

Churches.

Year.	Church of England.	Other Denominations.	No. of Sittings.	Average Attendance.	Centesimal Proportion to the Population.	Remarks.
1852	10	14	4,829	10,649	32·	No real decrease in attendance, but returns for 1854 more correct.
1853	11	16	4,770	11,916	35·	The number of sittings does not include those of the Roman Catholic Churches.
1854	11	17	5,160	8,376	25·63	

Schools.

Year.	Church of England.	Other Denominations.	No. of Scholars.	Centesimal Proportion to the Population.	Remarks.
1852	1,013	815	1,828	5·51	Decrease occasioned by cholera and no return from Roman Catholic Priest of St. George.
1853	967	1,057	2,024	5·93	
1854	1,078	638	1,716	5·25	

Imports. *Exports.*

	Value in Sterling.				Value in Sterling.			
Year.	From Great Britain.	From British Colonies.	From Foreign Countries.	Total.	To Great Britain.	To British Colonies.	To Foreign Countries.	Total.
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
1852	73,049	48,408	28,261	149,718	113,999	12,547	5,394	131,940
1853	71,981	44,181	22,898	139,060	104,432	14,289	5,234	123,955
1854	54,827	37,208	20,375	112,410	124,575	12,231	1,591	138,397

Shipping.

	Inwards Tonnage.				Outwards Tonnage.			
Year.	From Great Britain.	From British Colonies.	From Foreign Countries.	Total.	To Great Britain.	To British Colonies.	To Foreign Countries.	Total
	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.
1852	7,193	10,015	4,210	21,478	6,423	9,738	5,803	21,964
1853	9,559	9,775	4,460	23,794	4,941	9,563	7,516	22,020
1854	8,492	5,515	2,952	16,959	5,630	6,929	4,282	16,841

Return of Crimes and Offences.

Year.	Felons.	Misdemeanors.	Other Offences.	Total.	Increase.	Decrease.	Centesimal Proportion.	Debtors.
1852	27	33	119	179	–	25	0·54	10
1853	44	50	120	214	35	–	0·65½	12
1854	49	77	168	294	80	–	1·11⅛	16

GRENADA.

GENERAL REPORT on the Government House, Grenada; State of Repair of the Buildings State of the Furniture provided from Public Funds, and of the Arrangements under which the latter is provided, &c.

THE Government House of this colony was erected in 1800, and it has since been repaired from time to time, as required, at the expense of the colony.

It is situated on an eminence directly above the town and harbour of St. George, from which it is distant about half a mile, and adjoining the public road leading from St. George to Richmond Hill, where are the forts, barracks, hospital, and other military buildings formerly occupied by Her Majesty's troops.

The house is separated from the public road, which it overlooks, by a lawn sloping down towards the road, and which forms part of the grounds by which the house is surrounded.

Government house is constructed of brick, and roofed with tiles. It is a two storey building in the modern style of domestic architecture, standing on a raised platform or terrace, with cellars beneath.

The ground floor contains an entrance hall 42 feet 8 inches by 15 feet 6 inches, in which is the main staircase; dining room and drawing room, each, 43 feet by 24 feet; library, 16 feet 4 inches by 15 feet 6 inches; gallery and back staircase.

The upper floor contains a hall 24 feet 6 inches by 15 feet 9 inches; corridor, 25 feet 4 inches by 15 feet 3 inches; private office, 19 feet by 15 feet; five bedrooms, two of which measure, each, 22 feet 6 inches by 19 feet; and the others respectively, 17 feet 3 inches by 16 feet 6 inches; 22 feet 3 inches by 16 feet; and 22 feet 6 inches by 16 feet 6 inches; with a dressing-room attached to the latter, measuring 16 feet 6 inches by 10 feet 2 inches.

Attached to the house is a spacious tank and a bathing house.

The offices are detached from, but immediately adjoining the house, with which they are connected by covered passages.

They are contructed partly of rubble masonry and partly of wood.

The exterior of the house and offices is in a fair state of repair, with the exception of the wood work on the leads, which requires renewal.

The interior of the house is generally in good condition, except the beams of the roof trusses, and the wood work of the ceilings of the upper storey, which are much injured by dry rot and white ants, some of the plastering, especially round the window frames, requires repair, and the paper on the walls of some of the bedrooms has been injured by leakage of the eaves, gutters, and rain-water pipes. The wood work in general, however, (though as yet, with the above exceptions, tolerably sound,) show symptoms of approaching decay in many places, both in the house itself, and also in the offices, some of the door and window frames in the latter being already much affected.

The furniture of Government House, with the exception of some articles, the private property of the Lieutenant Governor, is found by the colony.

The oilcloth on the floor of the dining room is much dilapidated, and requires renewal, or rather removal, as it is very injurious to the flooring boards by preventing a free circulation of air. The rest of the furniture is in good order, but of a very plain and antiquated description, and deficient of many of the requirements of a well furnished modern mansion.

The furniture and fittings of the offices are much worn and decayed

I have, &c.

(Signed) PETER PATERSON, C.E., Assoc. Insti. C.E.,
Surveyor of Roads, Public Works,
and Buildings.

June 5, 1855.

ACCOUNT of Receipts and Expenditure of Waterworks at St. George's, Grenada.

Years.	Sums invested.			Charges of Establishment.			Sums received.			Remarks.
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	
1835	600	0	0	–	–	–	–	–	–	
1836	–	–	–	13	4	0	277	11	8	
1837	1,240	0	0	26	10	0	292	7	11	
1838				111	2	0	291	7	2	2 per cent. on valued rental of all houses, and 2*d.* currency per ton on vessels clearing. Exchange at 250 per cent.
1839				163	7	5	276	11	10	
1840				92	13	8	298	6	0	
1841				1,115	3	4	288	19	5	
1842				87	17	5	261	6	11	
1843				143	10	0	172	11	7	
1844				122	9	9	198		5	
1845				88	14	8	176	6	10	Taxes reduced from 2 to ½ per cent. on valued rental of houses, and raised from 2*d.* late currency to 2*d.* sterling per ton on vessels clearing.
1846				102	5	2	189	9	10	
1847				87	13	8	214	9	10	
1848				67	13	1	189	11	6	
1849				67	18	7	175	0	8	
1850				94	10	8	144	5	10	Tax on houses expired.
1851				67	0	7	154	11	4	
1852				61	8	2	144	12	0	Tax of 2*d.* per ton on vessels clearing.
1853				65	9	4	123	3	4	
1854				69	2	4	108	1	2	
	1,840	0	0	2,647	13	10	3,977	1	3	

The items under the head "sums invested," comprise the contract cost of furnishing and laying down the pipes.

The charges of the establishment embrace the salary of the superintendent and allowance to the receiver of the tax, the building of a reservoir, and the cost of laying down an additional line of pipes for the better accommodation of the shipping, and for the cost of pipes and annual repairs of the water works.

The expense attending the establishment having been defrayed out of the public revenue, no interest either on the receipt or expenditure has been charged.

MATTHEW DAVIES, Public Treasurer.

Treasurer's Office, 22d May 1855.

SIR,

Grenada, June 10, 1855.

IN framing my report on the common gaol of this island for the year ended 31st December 1854, I deem it unnecessary for the present to refer to those several minor subjects of complaint which have from time to time been represented to the Executive, and still remain undressed; for if any of the Government buildings are to be converted into a prison, or a new one is to be erected on the same site, those grievances might be borne with a little longer; but I feel it my duty to advert to that subject of paramount importance which is assuming a more serious aspect every day, and which, if considered in a right spirit, will at once show the imperative necessity of having a new gaol on a different principle altogether from that which at present exists. I allude to the increasing inconvenience arising from want of accommodation in the building, and the total impossibility, from its construction, of effecting any regular classification of the prisoners, or enforcing properly the rules and regulations of the gaol, or maintaining that system of reformatory discipline which has been found to succeed, most beneficially, in other establishments of a similar description.

In order to show more clearly the construction of the prison, and the constantly overcrowded state of the buildings, I have carefully measured the separate rooms or wards, and drawn a plan of the whole, to be attached to this report.

By reference to the drawing, then, it will be perceived that the prison consists of two airing yards, with a building in each (one of which contains two storeys), and one in front facing Young Street, occupying together a space of 3,139 square feet; but so badly constructed are their interior arrangements, that a great deal of room is lost, and the prison is rendered incapable of containing one half the number it otherwise would.

On the ground floor in the inner yard there are four large cells, which are, however, very damp, and almost unfit for use. The first floor (the entrance to which is by an open flight of stone steps from the yard to the middle of the building) is divided into two compartments. That on the left is a large ward called the stock room, measuring 21 feet 7 inches by 18.6 and 8 feet high, containing 3,194 cubic feet, in which fifteen men are

GRENADA.

now confined, and as many as twenty have been confined at one time. That on the right is subdivided into six wards, by wooden partitions, averaging 8.1 by 7.7, and 8.10 high, about 540 cubic feet each, in each of which two men are generally locked up, usually of the penal gang, the most refractory of all the prisoners.

From the centre a staircase leads to the second floor, which is divided into three rooms, one on either side, measuring each 23.3 by 19.1 and 8 feet high, containing 3,549 cubic feet each, and a small room in front of the landing place 9.11 by 7.8, equal to 547 cubic feet, in which debtors and persons confined for fines and penalties are generally promiscuously placed. All these wards are used both as day and sleeping rooms.

Fronting the outer yard the ground floor consists of six solitary cells, differing slightly in dimensions, but averaging, say, 3.6 by 7 and 6.6. high to centre of arch 159 cubic feet each. Above them, on the left is the female apartment, one single room, 9.1 by 9.9 and 9.10 in height, equal to 870 cubic feet, in which are now three female prisoners, but as many as seven have been there confined together at one and the same time. On the right are the turnkeys' quarters, consisting of four small rooms.

Of the building in front, the ground floor is divided into three rooms, 10.8 high That on the right, 15 by 6, as a store for the irons and implements of the gaol, that on the left, 14.10 by 9.9, as a sort of hospital for the sick, and the centre, 25 by 14.11, where the treadmill used to be, as a working room and for issuing the dietary, &c. Over the whole are the apartments of the gaoler, comprising three rooms.

Now the whole available space contained in these eleven wards amounts to 14,249 cubic feet, and it will be perceived at a glance how constantly overcrowded the gaol is; when we consider the daily average for the last three years was no less than forty, how difficult it is to isolate the prisoners or maintain a separate system, or even to keep the sexes apart, and how utterly impossible to carry out those requirements of Rule 12, allowing 1,000 cubic feet to each person, when upon that scale the gaol should contain only fifteen prisoners.

By the returns furnished the Executive from time to time it appears that this number has frequently been more than quadrupled, as the following extract will show :—

Year.	Greatest Number in Confinement at any one time.	Daily Average during in the Year.	Number of Persons in the Year.
1851	63	40·99	—
1852	70	40·00	179
1853	56	39·35	214
1854	49	36·00	294

It requires no argument to prove that such a state of things is pregnant with a dangerous tendency to subvert all order, subordination, and discipline, and is not only harassing to the officers of the prison by increasing the chance of escape and the risk of combination and outbreak, and at the same time disabling them from exercising any wholesome restraint or effective surveillance, but it is also injurious to the prisoners themselves, since it exposes the comparatively innocent and less criminal to the contaminating influence of the more hardened and depraved offender.

If the object of imprisonment be to reform the wicked instead of degrading them, and that of classification to protect the young and less hardened transgressor from the injurious consequences of associating with worse characters, and to hold out an inducement to all to behave well in prison by the hope of reward and the fear of punishment, then I beg respectfully to record my opinion that the common gaol of St. George's, Grenada, as now constituted, is totally unfit to effect so humane and philanthropic a purpose.

Crowded as it constantly is with a heterogeneous mass of the lowest classes, old and young, male and female, all huddled up together from want of room, I would almost say like the unfortunate victims between the decks of a slaver (and when the temperature of the place is considered the comparison would hold good as regards the sleeping of so many persons in such confined space) it presents a positive temptation to crime, and tends more to harden and confirm the evil disposed in their wickedness than to effect any beneficial change in their habits and feelings.

Already the visiting magistrates find it difficult to repress the daily acts of insubordination; and when solitary confinement on bread and water fails, there is no election between a harsher or a milder treatment—no means of resorting to those rigorous steps by which the stubborn and refractory are made to feel they are powerless, and that their condition is in all respects worse than when they were at large, and thus are easier humbled and subdued, nor any possibility of trying those meliorating measures that are calculated to act upon the sensibilities, and excite those better feelings which may have

become dormant, or blunted and seared by a course of dissipation and crime, and which it is the benevolent object of the modern system of imprisonment to revive and sharpen, in order that the mind, softened and prepared by solitude and confinement, may be disposed to receive those impressions which lead to sorrow and repentance, and the sinner be eventually restored to society a penitent and reformed man.

I am aware that this subject has frequently been brought before the authorities, for so far back as 1844 the Governor appointed a commission to inspect and report on the state of the prison; and as it is only by perseverance and reiterated representations that any great reform has been achieved, I trust I may be permitted to quote the following passage from that report:—

"As regards the fitness of the present building for a place of confinement, we consider "that in its present state the disadvantages of not having a proper classification of the "prisoners, proper ventilation, and the means of maintaining cleanliness are so numerous "that unless some course be adopted to remedy these evils, we feel ourselves bound to "state to your Excellency that the gaol is wholly unfit for the purposes for which it is "intended."

Since then nothing material has been done, except the putting on of a new roof, the expense of which might have been saved for all the good it has done, having only induced the escape of prisoners. Had a few hundred pounds been added, we would by this time have had a comfortable gaol competent to all the purposes required.

As the lot is ample enough, comprising 11,407 square feet, to admit the construction of a larger building, and the site remarkably healthy, I do not think it advisable to remove the present establishment, and as the adjoining lot formerly used as a stable for the commissariat department (the position and extent of which are also marked in the plan) has now come into possession of the colony, it affords an eligible spot to form a separate department for female prisoners, so that the present ground might all be appropriated to the construction of a new gaol on the improved modern principle, the expense of which would be greatly modified by the use of the old materials and the labour of the penal gang.

True, the finances of the colony cannot at present afford any immediate outlay, but when it is considered, on the one hand, how dangerous to society at large is the disorganized state of the prison, and how totally it fails to carry out the object of justice in the punishment of crime, and on the other hand, what benefits would accrue to public morals if properly protected from the baneful influence of the wicked and depraved by making the gaol what a gaol ought to be—a place to be dreaded—a protection to the good, but a terror to the bad, I feel persuaded that no sacrifice will be held too great to attain so desirable an end.

I have, &c.
(Signed) S. COCKBURN,
Inspctor of Prisons.

His Excellency Lieut.-Governor Keate,
&c. &c. &c.

No. 320.

No. 320.

SIR, Windward Islands, Barbados, June 18, 1855.

I HAVE received your Despatch, No. 61, of the 22d ultimo, containing your report on the "Blue Book" of Grenada for 1854.

Although the delay in accomplishing the financial measures which you had recommended to the Legislature has retarded the improvements which you contemplated, I congratulate you on the progress you have made, and I regard with great interest the gradual reduction of the indirect taxes, and revival of the principle of providing by local assessment for the opening and repair of roads, for the relief of the poor, and for the support of schools.

Although the customs duties are considerably lighter in Barbados than in the smaller islands, and do not therefore press so heavily on the people, the appropriations from the general revenue for these objects have been made in aid of local assessments or contributions, a principle which has been adhered to in the last year notwithstanding the severe outbreak of cholera and the heavy disbursements it occasioned.

The organization of a system of statute labour in Grenada on the model of the Ceylon Road Ordinance, will greatly tend to facilitate the change, and the Legislature, by providing for the appointment of a civil engineer and surveyor of roads, has taken the most effectual means of securing that these and other public works will in future be efficiently and economically executed.

Not less important is the object of regulating the finances of the island by the preparation of annual estimates of revenue and expenditure, an object which, from the jealousies that have prevailed in the assemblies, has been but imperfectly attained in any of the colonies, and hence there has not been that effectual control over or responsibility for the public disbursements which the public interests have required, and it is much to be regretted that the Assembly of Grenada has hitherto opposed the formation of a separate Executive Council on which those administrative duties would advantageously have devolved.

GRENADA.

It is also to be regretted that there should be no local contributions in Grenada in aid of the public grants appropriated for the support of schools. In Saint Lucia a system of local assessment has been introduced, which has the advantage of creating an inducement in the parents to secure to their children the instruction thus provided for; but in Barbados the parents of the children are required to contribute from the difficulty attending the collection of a rate; I would observe to you, however, that without good training and vigilant inspection, it has not been found that the schools can be brought to a state of efficiency which would obtain for them that general support which a good school never fails to receive.

I regret to learn from your report, that since the prevalence of cholera there has been some increase in Grenada of those offences against property and the person to which the peasantry in all these colonies are more or less addicted.

In regard to the latter they have been materially checked in Barbados by the exertions of the rural constabulary in preserving the peace of their neighbourhoods; and these officers, co-operating with the stipendiary police, have been useful also in the apprehension of offenders.

I hope you will prevail on the Legislature to provide for the enlargement of the gaol, which, from the report of the inspector of prisons, is wholly inadequate for the accommodation of the prisoners, and for the introduction of a reformatory system of discipline.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. M. G. COLEBROOKE.

TOBAGO.

TOBAGO.

No. 14.

No. 14.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor General Sir W. M. G. COLEBROOKE to the Right Hon. Lord JOHN RUSSELL.

(No. 35.) Windward Islands, Barbados, August 7, 1855.

MY LORD, (Received Sept. 6, 1855.)

I HAVE the honour to transmit copy of a Despatch from the Lieutenant Governor of Tobago, containing his report, with the Blue Book for 1854, and copy of the observations which I have addressed to the Lieutenant Governor thereupon.

I have, &c.

The Right Hon. (Signed) W. M. G. COLEBROOKE.
Lord John Russell, &c. &c.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Lieutenant Governor SHORTLAND to Governor General Sir W. M. G. COLEBROOKE, C.B.

(No. 38.)

SIR, Government House, July 21, 1855.

I HAVE the honour to forward the Blue Book for the year 1854, together with comparative abstracts of the principal returns, in accordance with your Excellency's Circular of the 7th March 1854.

A severe accident prevented the Colonial Secretary from completing the book with his usual promptitude, and I trust your Excellency will excuse the delay which has unavoidably arisen.

2. Although I am unable to report any considerable progress, still evident improvement has been attained under some important heads of service. The different departments of the Government have reached a higher degree of efficiency. The armed police is well organized, and, with the volunteer companies of the town of Scarborough and "Fort King George," amounting together to about one hundred men, provides an adequate force for internal purposes. Stations are also formed in the different districts, at which the greater part of the magisterial business is disposed of; and I hope, shortly, the practice of holding sessions in private houses will be entirely discontinued.

3. Education, too, is receiving increased encouragement. An efficient master, trained at the Government schools in Dublin, has been engaged for the school in Scarborough. It is hoped by this arrangement not only to afford a very superior education to the people generally, but effectually to secure the means of training masters for the parochial schools. I enclose a copy of a report from the schoolmaster, Mr. Rice, which already indicates some slight progress.

16 July 1855.

4. An asylum for the indigent poor is also established in one of the buildings at Fort King George, supported by voluntary contributions, principally derived from alms collected at the church in Scarborough, from which source twelve to fourteen paupers have been maintained during the year. An effort is now being made to extend the system to the respective parishes.

5. Nor are the legislative proceedings altogether void of interest. The statute book has received some useful additions, both for the better administration of justice and other matters of internal improvement. The most important, however, from the results it probably may eventually produce, is "An Act for the better Government of the Island," which, should it come into operation, will give the Governor the advantage of recognized organs in each branch of the Legislature, and it is to be hoped may thus increase the chance of cordial and united action, the absence of which has occasioned most of the difficulties now experienced.

6. Of the financial position of the colony, I regret the inability to afford an improved account. Any disposition to make the necessary effort to raise a sufficient revenue, and to confine expenditure within fixed limits, seems rather to diminish than increase. A principal cause of the present monetary derangements may be attributed to the practice of allowing each year to draw towards a close before passing the annual Appropriation Act. In reality the revenue is first spent, and afterwards appropriated. A still greater evil, however, arises from the custom of making these appropriations without reference to the amount of revenue actually collected. I do not imagine any calculation whatever is attempted. For instance, the Appropriation Act of last year, passed on the 9th December, authorizes the expenditure of 10,899*l.* 4*s.* 9*d.*, whilst the whole amount of revenue collected during the same period amounted to only 8,014*l.* The House of Assembly, when presenting the Bill, admitted the impropriety of the present system; and the House pledged itself, "at an early period of the "next year (1855), dispassionately to consider the subject of taxation, with a "view to its more equitable distribution, and to the providing at all times "a sufficient amount to carry on the services of the Government, commensurate "with its diminished resources." Estimates for the present year were submitted by me to the Assembly early in the month of January, when the House was invited to pass a Bill to regulate the expenditure for the year. The subject has not yet received any consideration.

10,899*l.* 4*s.* 9*d.*

8,014*l.*

7. But perhaps the more immediate cause arises from a custom which I found in operation on my arrival, of granting warrants for the payments of salaries and other services, regardless of the ability of the Treasury to meet them by cash payments. These warrants pass into the hands of the merchants and shopkeepers, and are left to find their way into the Treasury, for the payment of duties and taxes. There might be little objection to an issue of warrants, to a moderate extent, in anticipation of revenue appropriated to fixed purposes and secured by statute, provided the warrants so issued were not to exceed in amount the sum to be eventually realized. I imagine, formerly, these issues must have been so restricted, and that the practice of drawing orders on a bankrupt Treasury is an unintended result. On the 30th June last the outstanding warrants amounted to 2,683*l.*; and were a further issue to be made sufficient to cover the liabilities contracted up to that date, they would reach 4,800*l.*

2,683*l.*

4,800*l.*

8. I need hardly assure your Excellency that it is not my intention to continue a practice so ruinous to the real interests of the colony; that I have invited the House of Assembly to redeem its pledge; and that the future issues of warrants will be confined within the ability of the Treasury to meet them.

9. The Import Returns show a gradual decrease in value under the respective heads, but not to any material extent. It would appear, however, that trade with the British Colonies is on the increase.

10. The extent of the exports depends entirely on the sugar crop. I am not aware that the decrease which appears is attributable to any other cause than the weather. A crisis, however, has commenced which will require all the energy of the colonists successfully to meet. The various estates, hitherto almost entirely cultivated by absentee proprietors, through the medium of local agents, on which large sums of money have been annually expended, are on the eve of being conducted under a changed system of management. The

TOBAGO.

merchants, finding no adequate remuneration for their capital, some time since began to contract their advances, with the view of finally withdrawing from the speculation. Other proprietors have followed the example. A few estates have consequently been sold, others let, and some abandoned. It is believed that the year 1856 will see the system of absentee cultivation entirely thrown aside. A change so sudden cannot fail to cause some distress, and to affect the exports of future years. Fortunately, however, the labouring classes have made great efforts to provide against the emergency. The weather has been exceedingly favourable; the coming crop gives promise of more than ordinary productiveness, and the island was never better supplied with food. I do not view this change with any degree of uneasiness, under the persuasion that every approach towards the attainment of a resident proprietary body must tend to eventual prosperity.

11. No public work of any kind has been undertaken during the year. The question of the proposed construction of a gaol out of the hospital and military prison at Fort King George still remains undecided by the Legislature. It has been notified to the House of Assembly that the Scarborough Gaol will be declared unfit for use, under the provisions of the Act of the Imperial Parliament "for the better Government of Prisons in the West Indies," unless suitable provision be made within a reasonable time for the number of prisoners usually incarcerated therein.

15,205. 5,800. 12. The population may now be estimated at 15,205: of these about 5,800 are engaged in agriculture,—a number quite equal to the present demand for labour.

19 July 1855. 13. I enclose the copy of a letter from the Colonial Secretary, explanatory of the delay which has arisen, and of the inability to complete, satisfactorily to himself, some of the returns.

I have, &c.

His Excellency the Governor-in-Chief, &c. &c.

(Signed) WILLOUGHBY SHORTLAND.

ABSTRACT RETURNS from Blue Books for 1852, 1853, and 1854.

Revenue.

Year.	Customs' Duties.			Assessed and other Taxes.	Total.	Increase.	Decrease.
	Import.	Export.	Tonnage.				
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
1852	4,370	Nil	538	2,567	7,476*	—	4,195
1853	4,567		468	5,814	10,850*	3,374	—
1854	3,729		271	4,014	8,014	—	2,836

* These Returns show the actual receipts in each year, and include a large portion of the revenue which ought to be collected in the previous year. The public debt on the 31st December 1854 was upwards of £4,000. A correct estimate of the financial state of the colony cannot, therefore, be formed from the returns of revenue and expenditure.

Expenditure, Colonial.

Year.	Civil Government.	Judicial.	Ecclesiastical.	Educational.	Police and Prisons.	Other Expenditure.	Total.	Increase.	Decrease.
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
1852	1,390	887	1,135	120	1,019	3,215	7,676	—	3,125
1853	3,079	867	1,158	305	1,653	3,711	10,773	3,097	—
1854	2,529	607	722	337	2,016	1,803	8,014	—	2,759

* These Returns show the actual sums paid from the public Treasury in each year. Many of the payments were in respect of services performed in the previous year. There will always be confusion in the public accounts, unless the system of incurring debts without raising the means of liquidating them be discontinued.

Expenditure, Local and Parochial.

Nil.

Expenditure, Great Britain.

Year.	Civil.	Military.	Total.	Remarks.
	£	£	£	
1852	3,090	7,242	10,332	The first column includes the Lieut. Governor's salary, salaries of Stipendiary Magistrates, Comptroller of Navigation Laws, and Deputy Postmaster General.
1853	2,990	6,573	9,563	
1854	2,990	—	2,990	The second column includes all Commissariat and Ordnance expenditure.

Note.—The troops were withdrawn from this island on the 16th January 1854.

Population (estimated).

Year.	Males.	Females.	Total.	Remarks.
1852	7,227	7,567	14,794	Census of 1851, 14,378.
1853	7,347	7,691	15,038	White population, 31st December 1853, 110 males and 50 females, including infants.
1854	7,430	7,775	15,205	31st December 1854, white population decreased about 4 per cent.

Land.

Year.	Area in Square Miles.	Acreage under cultivation.	Remarks.
1852	97 square miles, or 62,080 acres.	Estimated at 7,883	Canes about 4,183; provisions about 3,700.
1853		Do. 7,800	Do. 4,000; do. 3,800.
1854		Do. 7,800	No correct data upon which to form a calculation.

Coins and Currency.

Year.	Specie in circulation.	Notes in circulation.	Remarks.
1852	Unknown.	Nil.	In 1847 the amount of specie in circulation was estimated at £21,000. It has since decreased to a large extent.
1853			
1854			

Churches.

Year.	Church of England.	Other Denominations.	No. of Sittings.	Average Attendance.	Centesimal Proportion to the Population.	Remarks.
1852	7	9	7,350	6,685	45	* Seven Wesleyan Chapels.
1853	7	9*	7,350	6,330	42·09	
1854	7	9	7,350	6,335	41·6	Two Moravian do.

Schools.

Year.	Church of England.	Other Denominations.	No. of Scholars.	Centesimal Proportion to the Population.	Remarks.
1852	691	1,303	1,994	13·4	Church of England 8 Wesleyans - - 7 Moravian - - 3 Private School - 5 23
1853	559	1,263	1,822	12·1	
1854	443	1,485	1,928	12·6	

TOBAGO.

Imports. *Exports.*

VALUE IN STERLING.					VALUE IN STERLING.			
Year.	From Great Britain.	From British Colonies.	From Foreign Countries.	Total.	To Great Britain.	To British Colonies.	To Foreign Countries.	Total.
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
1852	17,441	31,981	4,106	53,529	56,503	329	—	56,831
1853	22,488	24,624	5,885	52,997	55,200	971	—	56,171
1854	16,751	33,002	2,554	52,307	49,642	112	—	49,754

Shipping.

INWARDS.					OUTWARDS.			
Year.	From Great Britain.	From British Colonies.	From Foreign Countries.	Total.	To Great Britain.	To British Colonies.	To Foreign Countries.	Total.
	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.
1852	3,263	3,795	1,114	8,172	3,945	4,423	928	9,296
1853	3,673	3,180	1,182	8,035	3,274	2,843	1,804	7,921
1854	2,913	2,490	424	5,827	2,913	2,490	424	5,827

ALBERT ALLOM,
Colonial Secretary.

EXTRACT of a LETTER from ALBERT ALLOM, Esq., Colonial Secretary, to Lieutenant Governor SHORTLAND.

(No. 9.)

Secretary's Office, Tobago, July 19, 1855.

"I HAVE the honour to forward to your Excellency the Blue Book for the year 1854, together with an abstract of the Blue Book Returns for the years 1852, 1853, and 1854, prepared in accordance with the instructions of his Excellency the Governor-in-Chief. (Circular, 7th March 1854.)

"I regret that unusual delay has occurred in the preparation of this Blue Book. On the 16th March last a serious accident, resulting in a fractured limb, rendered me incapable of active exertion, though it never at any time prevented me from exercising some superintendence over the performance of necessary and pressing official duties. This accident confined me to my own residence for nearly four months. I am happy to state, however, that during that period, through your Excellency's kind indulgence, I was relieved from much anxiety, though the public interests were never allowed to suffer, and that the ordinary routine of my office, as performed by the clerks, had been previously reduced to a degree of efficiency which I hope may not have been unobserved.

"In transmitting the Blue Book to the Secretary of State, I trust, therefore, that your Excellency will be able to acquit me of any neglect of duty, and that you may consider this explanation of the delay to be satisfactory.

"In accordance with instructions from the Secretary of State (Circular, 9th August 1854), a report on Government House,—the state of the building, its furniture and arrangements,—has been added to the Blue Book.

"The returns usually transmitted are generally more full and complete than they have been in any previous year; but I regret to add, that, from causes which are not entirely within executive control, some of the returns are, as heretofore, either inaccurate or incomplete.

"The returns of revenue and expenditure are perhaps more complete and accurate in detail than they have been previously, owing to the new regulations under the Treasurer's Act; but I would venture to express an opinion that they are not calculated to afford a correct notion of the financial state of the colony, which was upwards of 4000*l.* in debt on the 31st December last.

" The detachments of Her Majesty's troops which had garrisoned this island were withdrawn on the 16th January 1854. In the absence of any officer to whom I could apply for the necessary information, I have been unable to ascertain the amount of the commissariat and ordnance expenditure for the short period during which they were present in the past year.

" The returns of the population, and of *baptisms*, marriages, and *burials*, have been rendered as accurately as the means at my command would allow. A general impression prevails that the Census of 1851 was inaccurate, and that the population was nearer 15,000 in 1851 than the number stated (14,378). The yearly returns of baptisms and burials, voluntarily furnished by the clergymen of the Established Church and by the Wesleyan and Moravian missionaries, cannot be considered to represent the actual number of births and deaths, for there are more deaths than registered burials, and more births than registered baptisms. In a community like this, the want of a compulsory system of registration is a very serious evil. Any calculations founded upon these returns should therefore be received with caution, and be considered only as approximating to the truth.

" The ecclesiastical and educational returns are as complete as they can be made from imperfect information * * * I hope in a future Blue Book, with your Excellency's assistance, to be enabled to secure greater attention on the part of those from whom this information is derived. I have much pleasure in submitting to your Excellency a report from Mr. Robert G. Rice, under whose superintendence the boys' school in Scarborough has been recently placed, with a view to the introduction of an improved system of education. Mr. Rice arrived here in the early part of the year, under your Excellency's auspices, recommended for the work by the Commissioners of National Education in Ireland. His report is interesting, as being a record of the first attempt, I believe, in this island to introduce anything like a sound system of instruction."

16 July 1855.

COPY of a REPORT from Mr. ROBERT G. RICE, Superintendent of the Scarborough Boys' School, to Colonial Secretary ALLOM.

SIR, Scarborough, Tobago, July 16, 1855.

IN accordance with your request I beg to submit for the information of his Excellency the Lieutenant Governor the following report of the Scarborough Boys' School, at present under my superintendence.

As a preliminary to doing so, I would beg to recall some circumstances connected with my appointment to the present situation.

It is, I conceive, scarcely necessary to state that I received this appointment from his Excellency the Lieutenant Governor and the Rev. the Rural Dean, on the recommendation of the Commissioners of National Education in Ireland, under whom I was qualified for the work, and have for some years held the first rank as a teacher. It were needless for me to attempt any eulogium upon a system of education which has already gained a world-wide reputation, and conferred inestimable advantages on my native land. Suffice it to say, that, after years of practical experience of its working, I continue an ardent and enthusiastic admirer and supporter of a system which interferes with " no " conscientious religious opinions, extends to all an education at once religious, moral, " and scientific."

On entering upon the discharge of my duties here, I found the boys to evince not only little knowledge of the common branches of an elementary education, but also a total ignorance of anything like a system of scholastic discipline and tactics. In fact, such a thing was hardly to be expected in a place where no regular and systematic course of education was ever pursued, and among a population only removed one degree from slavery and all its degrading concomitants,—as yet only in the infancy of intellectual development. On my first efforts at organization, from want of the necessary machinery, I was precluded the possibility, at least for some time, of following the model of our efficient home establishments of a similar kind.

The furniture used was of the very worst kind. Neither was there a proper supply of books and requisites. I am happy to add that, through the active exertions of the Rural Dean, both these evils are likely soon to be removed. Some excellent desks, benches, &c.—in fact, much of the more needful carpenter work—has been finished. A great deal more, however, seems absolutely necessary. The windows in particular are in a very broken and dilapidated state. I am also happy to state that a large supply of books and requisites is now on its way from Dublin.

As to the measure of success arising or likely to arise from my labours, you will agree with me in saying that it would be out of place for me to say anything at present, especially at such an early stage of the proceedings. But if, from the experience I have

TOBAGO.

already had of those committed to my charge, I may be permitted an opinion, I would unhesitatingly say, that I conceive the best and happiest results may be expected to accrue from a thorough and systematic cultivation of the intellect of the negro youth in these West India Colonies.

In conclusion I beg to subjoin the following statement of the school statistics:—

Payment per month, in advance - - -	1*s.* 0*d.*
Number of pupils in attendance - - -	75
Average daily attendance - - - -	46

The salary attached to the public school is made up of the following items, and derived, as you will see by inspection, from various sources:—

	£
Grant from Colonial Government - - - -	60
Do. from Her Majesty's Treasury, through the Lord Bishop of the Diocese - - - -	25
Guaranteed from School Fees by the Lieutenant Governor and Rural Dean - - - - -	25
Total -	£ 110

Hoping the above may prove satisfactory,

I have, &c.,
(Signed) ROBERT G. RICE.

The Colonial Secretary,
&c. &c.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor General Sir W. M. G. COLEBROOKE to Lieutenant Governor SHORTLAND.

(No. 384.) Windward Islands, Barbados, August 3, 1855.

SIR,

I HAVE received your Despatch, No. 38, of the 21st ultimo, containing your report, with the Blue Book for 1854.

I have noticed with satisfaction your observations upon the improvements effected in the executive departments, the efficiency of the armed police and volunteers, and the arrangements made for the more convenient administration of rural justice, and the better provision for the indigent poor.

I regret, however, the unfavourable report you have made as to the state of the finances, attributable in part to the decline of the resources of the island, and even more to the defective and irregular system in which they have been administered. The Act to which you allude, for the better government of the island, having been specially confirmed by the Queen in Council, will afford a favourable opportunity for the reform of the system; and I am glad to observe that you intended to discontinue the objectionable practice of issuing warrants for the payment of moneys where there are no funds in the Treasury to meet them, unless provision be made by the Assembly for the payment of interest upon them while outstanding.

From an inspection of the returns it is evident that, in the present declining condition of the colony, the revenue is not likely to be sustained, and that some relief must be afforded by the reduction or consolidation of its establishments, where this can be done without injury to the public service, and with consideration for the just claims of individuals.

I hope to learn from you that the measure in contemplation for converting the military buildings into a suitable gaol may be carried into early effect.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. M. G. COLEBROOKE.

His Excellency
the Lieutenant Governor,
&c. &c.

ST. VINCENT.

No. 15.

Copy of a DESPATCH from Governor General Sir W. M. G. Colebrooke to the Right Hon. Lord John Russell.

(No. 28.)

Windward Islands, Barbados, May 19, 1855.

My Lord, (Received June 16, 1855.)

I have the honour to transmit the copy of a Despatch from the Lieut.-Governor of St. Vincent, with the "Blue Book" of that island for 1854. No. 52, May 2, 1855.

I enclose also the copy of my reply to the observations contained in the Lieut.-Governor's report. No. 390, May 17, 1855.

I have, &c.

The Right Hon. Lord John Russell, &c. &c. &c. (Signed) W. M. G. COLEBROOKE.

Enclosure 1 in No. 15. Encl. 1 in No. 15.

Extract of a Despatch from Lieut.-Governor Eyre to Governor Sir W. M. G. Colebrooke.

(No. 52.)

Government House, St. Vincent, May 2, 1855.

Sir, (Received May 17, 1855.)

I have the honour to transmit to your Excellency, in duplicate, the "Blue Book" for St. Vincent for the year ending the 31st December 1854, together with the usual abstract returns compiled from it. 1. St. Vincent "Blue Book," 1854. 2. Abstract returns from ditto.

2. I regret being obliged to forward the "Blue Book" in an unbound state, but I have in vain endeavoured to get it either bound or even stitched in a wrapper at St. Vincent, and I should therefore be obliged if your Excellency would cause the copy intended for the Secretary of State to be put in boards at Barbados, before it is sent on, and the expense charged against this colony. 3. Return of Public Debt on Jan. 1, 1853. 4. Extract from Lieut.-Governor McDonnell's Despatch to Governor-in-chief, No. 38, May 27, 1853.

3. The period to which the "Blue Book" relates is antecedent to my assumption of the government of St. Vincent, but the returns of which it is composed have been compiled during my own administration. I have used every exertion to get them made as full and as accurate as possible, and though I am sensible that, owing to circumstances beyond my control, there must be many deficiencies and some errors, yet on the whole I trust the present volume will be found an improvement upon the last. Some new items have also been introduced into it, as the public debt, political franchise, list of dissenting places of worship, returns of produce, manufactures, mills, vessels built and registered in the colony, &c., a plan of the gaol, and the rules and regulations at present in force there, &c. &c. 5. Governor's message to the House of Assembly, Feb. 13, 1855. 6. Abstract return of Produce of St. Vincent for 1853 and 1854. 7. Returns relating to crime during the years 1853 and 1854.

4. I now proceed to comment upon such of the returns as appear to call for notice or remark.

Fees.

I have directed all fees heretofore received by the Lieut.-Governor as Governor or Chancellor to be paid into the treasury. The amount during the last three years has averaged 122*l.* 11*s.* 8*d.* No equivalent has either been given or asked. It would be a great advantage if the system (so prevalent here) of paying public officers by fees could be wholly abolished.

Revenue and Expenditure.

The revenue of 1854, 20,267*l.* 10*s.* 3½*d.*, was very nearly the same in amount as that of 1853, (20,381*l.* 14*s.* 7*d.*), but raised in a different manner. The produce and income taxes of 1853 having been given up, and an increase of eight per cent. to the ad valorem customs duties, a new tax upon rum consumed in the colony, and an issue of treasury notes (to the amount of 1,590*l.*) substituted instead for 1854.

ST. VINCENT.

The expenditure of 1854 (20,853*l.* 4*s.* 10*d.*) was considerably in excess of that for 1853 (18,733*l.* 15*s.*)

The difference being chiefly due, first, to the establishment of courts of police magistrates and petty debt courts, and, secondly, to the heavy expenses entailed on the colony by the establishment of quarantine and the outbreak of cholera. 20,853*l.* 4*s.* 10*d.* does not, however, correctly represent the expenditure of 1854, which indeed greatly exceeded that amount, as will be explained under the next heading.

Public Debt.

The amount specified under this heading, 1,590*l.*, represents a sum borrowed upon the issue of treasury notes redeemable in a year to make good a deficiency in the revenue; but it by no means represents the actual debt of the colony on the 31st December 1854; in fact, at that time (just about the period of my own arrival) the public debt was not and could not be at all accurately known, owing to the very peculiar and irregular manner in which all the financial arrangements of St. Vincent have heretofore been conducted. This irregularity consists in the expenditure of the colony having been carried on without any annual estimates or appropriation act, and in a great measure without any sanction of law—not, indeed, by the executive, but by irresponsible committees of the Legislature, assuming executive functions, acting under vote, resolution, or instructions from the House of Assembly, before any provision has been made to meet the expenses, not often limited in the amounts they may think proper to expend, and having themselves to audit the accounts sent in for the services rendered.

As might naturally be expected, evils of the most serious magnitude have arisen from such irregular practices—heavy debts have been incurred unknown to the executive, and without any provision having been made to meet them, and the colony has for some years past been in a state of perpetually recurring bankruptcy. Nor are these the only evils resulting from the system which has been pursued. The committees having no individuality, and being irresponsible, have not had their proceedings subjected to the scrutiny and supervision of the executive; no guarantee has existed for their adopting the best measures to secure the object sought to be attained, and no means of controlling them if they did not do so. It must be remembered, too, that the members of such committees are not salaried officers bound to give their time and best services to the public, but persons engaged in business or other private pursuits, from which they cannot spare the time, even if they had the inclination or the necessary experience to enable them successfully to superintend and direct the expenditure connected with the public service.

No greater proof of this can be given than the single fact, that, up to the 31st December 1854, the accounts for services of this nature for the whole of 1854 were not only unpaid, but for the last three quarters of the year actually not either called for or known, although amounting in the aggregate to several thousand pounds. It naturally follows that not only is the work required for the public service badly executed, but its cost greatly enhanced; for where the public creditor has to wait an indefinite time for his money it may reasonably be supposed that he compensates himself by the highness of his charges.

Having early given my attention to ascertaining the exact financial position of the colony, I found that the total debt of the colony at the close of 1854 amounted to no less a sum than 7,132*l.* 8*s.* 3*d.* as shown by a return herewith forwarded (Enclosure No. 3).

Encl. No. 3.

This added to the expenditure of 20,853*l.* 4*s.* 10*d.* would make a total expenditure of 27,985*l.*13*s.* 1*d.*, but from this must be deducted 2,379*l.* 2*s.* 10*d.* for public accounts and casualties, which, although paid in 1854, actually belonged to 1853 The real expenditure incurred for the year 1854 would therefore be 25,606*l.* 10*s.* 3*d.*, of which 7,132*l.* 8*s.* 3*d.* remained unpaid at the commencement of the present year, and constituted the true amount of the public debt on the 1st January 1855.

From my predecessor's report on the "Blue Book" for 1852, dated 27th May 1854 (see extract in Enclosure No. 4.) I find, that on the 1st January 1852 the debt due by the colony did not exceed 1,453*l.*; that on the 1st January 1853 it amounted to 4,687*l.*, but that the treasurer had funds in hand sufficient to pay

it off, as well as to apply a small balance to the ordinary expenditure; notwithstanding which, on the 1st January 1855, it had again augmented to the very large amount already mentioned (7,132*l.* 8*s.* 3*d.*), whilst the treasury was empty and the ordinary revenue apparently not likely to be equal to meet the ordinary current expenditure, and yet during the intervening period the revenue of the colony had been augmented from 17,541*l.* 12*s.* 7*d.* (which it was in 1852) to 20,247*l.* 10*s.* 3½*d.* in 1854.

No doubt much of this is due to the expenses entailed by quarantine and cholera in 1854, but I do not think wholly so, and I have pointed out the circumstances thus strongly because they illustrate forcibly the working of the system which has hitherto prevailed in St. Vincent and I believe in others of the West Indian Islands, and because I believe that the results indicate as plainly as can be indicated the utter unsuitability of the constitutions under which these islands are governed, to the existing impoverished and decaying state of the West Indies.

Public Works.

Under this heading it is impossible to give more than a very vague and general outline of what has been done, as the executive have no means of ascertaining the details of the various services which were undertaken by the committees of the legislature already referred to.

In addition to the public roads, some of the lock-ups, the court house, and the government cottage were repaired at very considerable expense, but owing to the absence of any architect or other person competent to superintend what was being done, and owing also to the services being conducted not by the executive but by irresponsible committees not qualified by their practical experience to undertake the duties of an engineer, and unable to give up their time to a proper and sufficient supervision of the work whilst going on, I fear that much of the large amount spent has been in a great degree wasted, certainly not turned to the good account it might have been.

With regard to the government residence, I can say from personal knowledge that on my arrival at the close of December 1854, I found it deficient in many of the essentials and commonest conveniences of an ordinary English dwelling, as well as exhibiting indications of very considerable decay and dilapidation. Some of these deficiences I have made good at my own expense, the larger number still exist unremedied and at this very time some of the rooms are untenable from leakages in the roof, whilst the pillars of the verandahs and the supports of the floors are in other places tumbling down or giving way from decay. I believe, therefore, that a very large sum would still be required to reinstate completely the house and premises, although an amount is said to have been expended upon it during 1854 which would very nearly have built a new house of a corresponding size and character. I am unable to append any regular report upon the state of these premises from the absence of any architect or other person competent to undertake the duty properly.

Legislation.

Twenty Acts were enacted by the Legislature during the year 1854; many of these are of a temporary or unimportant character, but some of them are of a more permanent and highly useful nature. Such are the Acts establishing and regulating the Court of Grand Sessions, the Act amending the law of evidence, the Act defining the mode of procedure before justices of the peace, and consolidating their duties, and the Act classifying and consolidating offences cognizable by justices of the peace.

Two Acts were also passed affecting the constitution; one for the purpose of enabling nine members of the House of Assembly to transact business instead of eleven. The object of this enactment was, if possible, to secure a meeting of the house with sufficient frequency to admit of the legislation of the colony being carried on with regularity, certainty, and promptness; but this object has not yet been attained, and there appears quite as great a difficulty in getting nine members together as in getting together eleven.

Seven would form a better and more practicable working number in the existing circumstances of the colony, but the adoption of so limited a proportion of the whole number of representatives (nineteen) would appear to throw the whole power into the hands of a few individuals, who, living in or not very far

ST. VINCENT.

away from the town, would nearly always be able to attend, and of course could carry everything their own way.

Practically this really is the case now, for, although nine members must actually meet to form the house, after having been formed, unless counted out, much of the business may be and is performed by a much smaller number.

The other Act affecting the constitution was passed for the purpose of authorizing the Government to appoint a member of the House of Assembly to act as the official organ of the Government in that house, with a view of enabling the executive either to introduce measures into the House of Assembly or to explain their policy through such organ. * * *

Political Franchise.

This is a new return introduced into the "Blue Book" for St. Vincent, and a glance at its contents will discover some startling facts connected with the working of the constitution under which the colony is governed, and to the unsuitability of which much of the confusion and embarrassment now existing must be ascribed.

The population of St. Vincent is assumed (for no correct census has lately been taken) to be 30,128, who are again supposed to be represented by nineteen members, chosen by themselves, to form a House of Assembly intended to be analogous in its constitution, powers, and privileges to the House of Commons in England.

By the return given at page 74 of the "Blue Book" it will be observed, that at the last general election in January 1853 there were only 293 electors registered for the whole colony, and that even out of this small number only 130 came forward as voters. It thus appears that out of the 30,128 inhabitants, 130 individuals actually elected the whole of the nineteen representatives, constituting the House of Assembly; and having large powers for either good or evil in relation to the whole colony which is bound by their acts, at least in all questions relating to or involving money considerations.

But I am credibly informed, that, even of these 130 who did appear as voters, a large proportion could scarcely be considered as coming forward voluntarily, but had their voting tickets taken out and paid for by the candidates who polled them; thus showing the little interest taken by the electors in the return of their members, when even the trouble of taking out their ticket or the payment of the small fee of 1*s*. would deter them from going to the poll.

In looking over the records of the returns of writs during the last few years this indifference is still more strikingly displayed, and I find therefrom (at various times) four members have been returned by ten voters, three members by five voters, three members by four voters, three members by three voters, three members by two voters, two members by three voters, two members by two voters, one member by one voter, and, in one instance, a single voter actually returned two out of the nineteen members composing the whole House of Assembly.

Nor is this indifference confined to the electors; there is often as much difficulty in getting a candidate for the representation; and several instances are on record in which after the issue of writs no return could be made in consequence of no candidate having come forward.

When all these difficulties are overcome, and the House actually constituted, a still more insurmountable impediment exists to its efficient working,—the difficulty of getting together the number required by law to constitute a quorum. At first this number was eleven, but it being found impracticable to assemble so large a proportion out of the nineteen, the minimum number was reduced to nine, and even now the greatest difficulty is often experienced in getting this reduced number together, and much delay and injury to the public interests necessarily result.

During the year 1854 the House only transacted business on twenty-eight days, and in the first quarter of the present year on eleven days, although during this last-mentioned period the embarrassed circumstances of the colony and the lapse of several important laws seemed to make it doubly essential that no time should be lost in devising, considering, and enacting many measures

vitally affecting the interests and wellbeing of the colony, and every day's delay of which must prove a serious evil, as well as render more difficult any satisfactory adjustment of the questions involved.

The real truth is, that in St. Vincent there is scarcely any resident proprietary body, and hardly any persons of education and ability who are able or willing to devote their time to the public service without remuneration.

There are few wealthy persons, or even of independent means, and each one is so absorbed in the necessary duties of his avocation as to be unable to give up his time or attention to anything else, and this state of things is daily getting worse in consequence of the impoverished and decaying condition of the West Indies.

Many of the members come in but rarely or irregularly, and as a natural result the business of the country falls into the hands of a few individuals, who, residing either in the town or in the nearer districts, are still able and willing to give an occasional attendance at the House of Assembly. This is, however, not representation.

On the other hand, the Government is powerless, and those measures which in a colony possessing a different constitution would be promptly adopted by a well organized and efficient executive, cannot here be resorted to; so, between the inefficient working of representative institutions and the inability of the executive to act without them, very little is done, and the colony still remains without many of the most essential laws and the most necessary institutions.

At this present moment there is no public hospital in operation, no orphan asylum, no refuge for the destitute, and no lunatic asylum. No law in existence for the furtherance of education, no law regulating the management of intestate properties, and none legalizing a large portion of the public expenditure; nor is any law yet enacted for raising the funds necessary to make good the anticipated deficiency in the public revenue as compared with the current expenditure for the year, or to meet the large debt owing by the colony, and for which at present not even interest is being paid.

It is true bills are either before the legislature or in course of preparation with a view to remedying some of these deficiencies, but such is either the apathy of West Indian legislators or their unwillingness to grapple with difficult and unpleasant questions, or their real inability to give up the time necessary to a proper consideration of them, that there is no knowing when any of the measures in contemplation may actually become law, or how far, if enacted, they may be adapted to attain the objects sought for.

Council and Assembly.

The legislative council is also the privy council, an arrangement which works very unsatisfactorily; first, because it is very difficult for the same individuals to keep up a distinction between their duties in one capacity and those which devolve upon them in the other, and secondly, because the Governor is deterred from having the advantage of consulting any other persons than members of of the upper house of legislature, between whom and the lower house there is a sort of hereditary jealousy and distrust, which is again reflected against the government in reference to all measures or proceedings it may adopt under the advice of the upper house when acting as a privy council.

The abolition, therefore, of the existing privy council, and the establishment of an executive council altogether irrespective of the legislative council, would, I have no doubt, prove a very beneficial measure.

The nature and constitution of the assembly has been slightly touched upon already under the heading of Political Franchise.

Civil Establishment.

The civil establishment of St. Vincent as at present constituted is far from being either complete or satisfactory. Many incompatible offices are in the hands of a single individual; some establishments are very defective and much

ST. VINCENT.

underpaid, and others again are overpaid; some departments are altogether wanting which are essential to the effective conduct of the government (as audit and survey), and some are in the hands of the legislature which usurp executive functions. A copy of my finance message to the legislature on the 13th day of February 1855 is herewith attached (Enclosure 5), and will give further information on this subject.

Encl. No. 5.

Population.

No census has been taken since 1851, and even that is not to be relied on as being very accurate. During 1854 the cholera made fatal ravages amongst the labouring population, but no correct record seems to have been kept of the number of deaths in the different districts. It is estimated, I believe, that in the whole colony about 2,200 fell victims to this fearful scourge.

Education.

During the year a sum of about 900*l.* has been expended on education, but the good effects of this expenditure are likely to be lost through the apathy of the legislature, which allowed the Education Act to expire in the latter part of the year without any other enactment being substituted; and though I have strongly urged the subject upon both branches, a full third of the present year has also been allowed to pass away without anything being determined on the matter; there is, therefore, at present no law for promoting education in St. Vincent.

Imports and Exports.

The total imports of the colony for 1854 (145,772*l.*) show a decrease of 13,071*l.* as compared with the total imports of 1853 (158,843*l.*)

The chief items upon which this decrease has taken place are cattle, horses, mules, corn and corn-meal, fish, guano, manure, ice, and general merchandise and wares; at the same time an increased importation has taken place on brandy, bread, hardware, rice, shingles, soap, staves, timber, and tobacco.

The total exports of the colony in 1854 (176,797*l.*) are also less by 22,023*l.* than the total exports of 1853 (198,820*l.*)

The decrease has been chiefly in arrowroot, hides, shrub, molasses, and sugar, especially the two latter, of which the value was less in 1854 by 26,705*l.* than in 1853; and although an increased quantity of rum, amounting to 11,543*l.*, was made in the former over the latter year, a large deficiency of produce still exists, showing that the staple productions of the colony are rapidly falling off in quantity and value; and from all I can learn there is every reason to fear that this falling-off will be greater during the present year, and still greater in 1856, as it is believed that many more of the finest estates will then be thrown out of cultivation, as no longer returning any profit to the owners after payment of expenses, and in many instances actually entailing a considerable loss to them. * * *

Encl. No. 6.

A tabular return herewith transmitted (Enclosure No. 6.), giving the abstract returns of all produce of the colony of St. Vincent in 1853 and 1854, shows that in this latter year the deficiency in sugar amounted to 1,199,777 pounds, in molasses to 135,352 gallons, and in arrowroot to 114,060 pounds, but that in rum there was an increased manufacture to the amount of 51,367 gallons.

State of Crime.

Encl. No. 7.

Two returns are herewith forwarded (Enclosure No. 7.) The first contains an abstract of all commitments for trial before the Court of Grand Sessions, with a statement of the offences, and the result of the trials, for the years 1853 and 1854. From this it appears that both the number of offences was much greater, and the crimes of a more heinous character in 1854 than in 1853; but I am not aware of any causes which would account for this unfavourable result.

The second return gives an abstract for the same two years of all prisoners sent to Kingstown Gaol under sentences from the justices, with a statement of the offences for which they were imprisoned.

The number and nature of the cases are pretty nearly the same in both years, with the exception of imprisonments for debt, of which there were fifty in 1854, but only one in 1853. This difference is, however, owing to the new Petty Debt Courts having come into operation in the first-mentioned year, and the very number of the convictions show how useful and necessary such courts are.

On the whole, the state of crime in St. Vincent during the year 1854 appears to have been far from satisfactory, as compared with the previous year, and more especially so as amongst the convictions were three for murder, although fortunately only for one and the same offence. Two of the murderers were executed, and the third is still undergoing a sentence of imprisonment.

Having now gone through such of the items of information in the "Blue Book" as appear to require noticing for the purpose of explaining the present condition and prospects of St. Vincent, I proceed to offer a few suggestions as to remedial measures.

It will be at once obvious from what has already been stated that the existing circumstances are ill adapted to the present retrograding and decaying state of the colony, and that under its continuance little hope can be entertained of the evils which have been pointed out being either fully remedied or materially improved.

The people do not value, and will not work usefully, the representative institutions which they possess. The executive is utterly powerless (except so far as the personal character of the Lieutenant-Governor may carry influence) to accomplish anything without the aid of the representative body; and in endeavouring to work with and for them so many jealousies arise, so many personal feelings or private interests intervene, so many difficulties and delays of one kind or another occur, that it seems almost hopeless to expect ever to carry on the government satisfactorily or in such a manner as a governor really interested in the welfare of the colony over which he presides must desire to see it conducted. I believe myself had the executive at the commencement of the present year possessed sufficient power to have carried out with promptness and decision vigorous measures for remedying the difficulties which existed, that in the course of a year or eighteen months at the furthest the whole debt of the colony might readily have been paid off, the civil establishments properly organized and consolidated, the current revenue made to meet the current expenditure, many useful institutions brought into operation, and many necessary laws enacted, but all these advantages have been frustrated or lost or greatly retarded through the indecision or inactivity or non-meeting of the House of Assembly.

I am myself a great admirer of and a strong advocate for representative institutions in the colonies, but I confess that in their present form they do not work and are not workable in St. Vincent, and I believe, however unsatisfactory in theory it would be to take a step backwards in the political institutions in the country, that practically it would be the salvation of St. Vincent so far to modify its constitution as to unite the legislative council and the house of representatives into a single chamber, sitting under a speaker,—in fact, to adopt a form of government analogous to that at present existing in the Australian colonies. In the West Indies the absence of a proprietary body and the fact that there are few persons of intelligence, education, and respectability who are able and willing to give up their time unremunerated to the duties of legislation, constitute insuperable barriers to the obtaining of a sufficient number of qualified persons to compose two chambers * * *

Pending any radical change in the constitution of the colony, the next best thing to be done would be to abolish the existing privy council and create a new executive council, irrespective of the legislative council, and into which members of both branches might be introduced, as well as any other suitable

ST. VINCENT.

persons whom Her Majesty might think fit to call thereto, unconnected with either branch.

The object of this change would be to bring the Governor into immediate personal communication with members of each branch of the legislature at a board where he could explain the objects and policy of the goverment, and discuss with the members any questions of interest or importance; objections might by these means be removed, jealousies prevented, consistency established, and a spirit of union and co-operation stimulated; and thus the executive be strengthened and supported in its endeavours to promote measures necessary for the general welfare.

A Bill having this object in view is actually now before the legislature, but it is impossible to say if it will be carried.

The House of Assembly is quite prepared to pass such a law on condition of its securing that a larger proportion of the members of the new executive council should be selected from its own house than from the council.

The council, on the other hand, have a natural repugnance to do away with their own powers and privileges, and more especially so when it is quite certain in the event of the measure being carried, that one half of their number must be excluded from the new executive council, and would be subject to the disadvantage of seeing a considerable number of members from the lower house as executive councillors obtain a precedency and distinction over them which they themselves had heretofore enjoyed.

It would appear, therefore, that between the two parties (both of whose concurrence is necessary) there is little chance of getting this important and desirable measure enacted,* and the government must still go on as before with all the difficulties and embarrassments which beset it, and without any prospect of being able to accomplish any real or permanent improvements, or to do more than continue the unsatisfactory and mischievous system which has been in existence so long.

*This bill has been thrown out by the Council, 9th May. E. E.

The only alternative would be for the Crown to exercise its undoubted prerogative, and, after abolishing the existing privy council, call into existence an executive council, to be composed of such persons as Her Majesty may be pleased to summon thereto from both branches of the legislature, or from persons unconnected with either.

The establishment of a paid executive committee as adopted at Jamaica, composed of two members of the lower and one of the upper house, has also been proposed, but there is a difficulty in the way here of paying such a committee in the present impoverished state of the colony, nor if this difficulty be removed, do I anticipate that the adoption of such a committee would be at all productive of the amount of good expected from it.

If the committee were supposed to represent the legislature the members would have to go in or out as they gained or lost the confidence of their respective chambers, but what is called responsible government is utterly impracticable in such a colony as this. Again, if the committee are supposed to be executive officers, I believe it would be better to make them so in reality, and place the several members at the heads of departments so as to secure individual responsibility instead of assigning to them as a body duties and responsibilities for which, if neglected or inefficiently performed, no one member could well be made more responsible than another.

Whatever steps, however, may be taken by the home government to remedy the sad state of things existing at St. Vincent (and I believe more or less at most of the West Indian Islands), whether it may be deemed advisable to call into operation the exercise of the prerogative, or whether it may be thought more desirable, notwithstanding all the difficulties in the way, to endeavour to get any proposed changes assented to and approved of by the local legislatures in the first instance, I believe that it would be of the highest importance to this colony if the home government could induce Parliament to grant it a temporary loan at moderate interest to enable the colony to pay off

its large outstanding debt, and to gain time for bringing the current revenue and expenditure into a better balanced relative position.

Could this be accorded, upon the legislature undertaking to pass such measures as might be considered necessary to guard against a recurrence of the embarrassments which have taken place, I believe that arrangements might readily be made both for paying off the loan in a very limited period of time, and also for ensuring that the current expenditure of the colony for the future should never exceed the current revenue.

I have been endeavouring to obtain some returns of the number of estates likely to be thrown out of cultivation, and also of the quantities of production, but I regret to say, from the great difficulty of getting anything done in this colony in anything like a reasonable time, that there is no chance whatever of my being able to procure the information I had wished for in time to send it with my report on the "Blue Book."

I have, &c.
(Signed) E. EYRE.

His Excellency Sir W. M. G. Colebrooke, C.B.
&c. &c. &c.

Enclosure 2 in No. 15.

1854.—COLONY OF ST. VINCENT.

No. 1.

RETURN, in a Tabular Form, for the last Year in which they can be made up of the Gross Revenue under their different heads, exhibiting the Cost of Collection and any Deductions made in their progress to the Public Treasury.

GROSS REVENUE.

Customs	Tonnage Dues.	Taxes and Excise.	Fines and Forfeitures.	Fees of Office.	Lighthouse Dues.	Canals and Public Works.	Immigrant Tax.	Interest.	Miscellaneous Receipts.	Gross Amount of Revenue.	Cost of Collection.
£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s.	£ s. d.						£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
10,719 8 10	1,381 14 2	Rum duties - 1,410 7 Liquor licences - 1,730 0 Charcoal „ - 46 5 Hucksters „ - 52 0 Total - 3,238 12	337 7 0½						Miscellaneous 75 5 3 Sale of Treasury Notes - 1,425 3 0 Total - 1,500 8 3	17,177 10 3½	1,250 8 9

No. 2.

RETURN, in a Tabular Form, for the last Year in which they can be made up of the Disbursements under their different heads, showing the authority under which such Disbursements were made.

EXPENDITURE.

Civil Establishment.	Judicial Establishment.	Ecclesiastical Establishment.	Education.	Pensions.	Police.	Gaols.	Roads.	Expenses of the Legislature.	Hospital.	Revenue Department and Drawbacks.	Miscellaneous.	Total.	Authority.
£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	
*601 7 8	2,966 6 5	2,444 18 0	903 13 9	81 13 4	1,934 10 0½	980 1 0	1,099 7 6	*626 19 7	200 0 0	*1,129 2 4	†4,815 5 3	17,783 4 10½	By Acts of the Legislature.

* On reference to the "Blue Book," page 36, the above sums are all included, and are under the head "Civil Legislative and Revenue," 2,357*l.* 9*s.* 7*d.* By this return each department is separated.

† The sum under the head "Miscellaneous" was paid as follows :—

	£ s. d.
Agricultural Society	50 0 0
Board of Health	1,526 5 6
Quarantine expenses	849 6 4½
Public accounts	1,670 17 2½
Casualties	718 16 2
	4,815 5 3

Revenue.

Year.	Customs Duties.			Assessed and other Taxes.	Judicial Fines.	Miscellaneous.	Total.	Increase.	Decrease.
	Import.	Tonnage.	Excise.						
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1852	9,702 13 7	1,793 12 6	2,016 15 0	460 4 4	359 12 0	58 15 0	14,391 13 7	—	—
1853	7,779 1 8	1,354 18 6	1,820 10 0	6,272 12 4	84 12 1	—	17,311 14 7	2,920 1 0	—
1854	10,719 8 10	1,381 14 2	3,238 12 0	—	337 7 0	1,500 8 3	17,177 10 $3\frac{1}{2}$	—	134 4 $3\frac{1}{2}$

Expenditure.

Year.	Civil.	Judicial.	Ecclesiastical.	Education.	Police.	Prisons.	Other Expenditure.	Total.	Increase.	Decrease.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1852	1,500 8 10	1,782 5 6	2,349 0 5	970 7 2	2,158 2 11	921 12 11	5,272 6 6	14,954 4 3		
1853	2,221 5 8	1,832 14 6	2,810 14 10	962 10 0	1,475 1 11	773 4 2	5,588 3 11	15,663 15 0	709 10 9	
1854	2,357 9 7	2,966 6 5	2,444 18 0	903 13 9	1,934 10 0	980 1 0	6,196 6 1	17,783 4 10	2,119 910	

ST. VINCENT.

ABSTRACT RETURNS from "BLUE BOOKS," 1852, 1853, 1854.

Revenue.

Year.	Customs Duties.			Assessed and other Taxes.	Total.	Increase.	Decrease.
	Import.	Export.	Tonnage.				
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
1852 -	9,702	—	1,793	2,895	14,390	—	1436
1853 -	7,779	—	1,354	8,177	17,310	2,920	—
1854 -	10,719	—	1,381	5,076	17,176	—	134

Expenditure, Colonial.

Year.	Civil Government.	Judicial.	Ecclesiastical.	Education.	Police.	Prisons.	Other Expenditure.	Total.	Increase.	Decrease.
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
1852 -	1,500	1,782	2,349	970	2,158	921	5,272	14,952	—	210
1853 -	2,221	1,832	2,810	962	1,475	773	5,588	15,661	709	—
1854 -	2,357	2,966	2,444	903	1,934	980	6,196	17,780	2,119	—

Expenditure, Local and Parochial.

Year.	Poor.	Roads.	All other Parochial Charges.	Total.	Remarks.
1852 1853 1854					No Parochial Taxes raised in this island. The expenses for "Poor" and "Roads" are included in "Expenditure Colonial."

Expenditure, Great Britain.

Year.	Civil.	Military.	Total.	Remarks.
	£	£	£	In January 1854 the troops were withdrawn from this island. The sum of 150*l.* 15*s.* 8*d.* was paid to out-pensioners of Chelsea Hospital.
1852 -	3,150	4,586	7,736	
1853 -	3,070	8,803	11,873	
1854 -	3,070	—	3,070	

Population (Estimated).

Year.	Males.	Females.	Total.	Remarks.
1852 - 1853 - 1854 -	13,957	16,171	30,128	No census taken since the 30th June 1851.

Land.

Year.	Area in Square Miles.	Acreage under Cultivation.	Remarks.
1852 1853 1854	131	35,000	

Coins and Currency.

Year.	Specie in Circulation.	Notes in Circulation.	Remarks.
1852 1853 1854	—	The notes of the Colonial Bank are in circulation.	No means of ascertaining the amount.

Churches.

Year.	Church of England.	Other Denominations.	Number of Sittings, Church of England.	Number of Sittings, other Denominations.	Average Attendance, Church of England.	Average Attendance, other Denominations.	Centesimal Proportion to the Population.
1852	14	—	5,320	—	2,615	—	
1853	15	—	4,542	—	2,955	—	
1854	19	16	4,847	—	2,860	—	

Remarks.—The average returns of attendance at the several churches and chapels, both of the Church of England and of the other denominations in the island, cannot be relied upon. As a consequence, any centesimal proportion now calculated would be fictitious.

Schools.

Year.	Church of England.	Other Denominations.	Number of Scholars.	Centesimal Proportion to the Population.
1852 - -	1,206	948	2,154	7·28
1853 - -	1,229	748	1,977	6·59
1854 - -	1,338	362	1,700	5·64

Imports and Exports, Value in Sterling.

Year.	Imports.				Exports.			
	From Great Britain.	From British Colonies.	From Foreign Countries.	Total.	To Great Britain.	To British Colonies.	To Foreign Countries.	Total.
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
1852	83,185	41,905	41,969	167,059	178,930	22,561	3,504	204,995
1853	71,084	44,296	43,463	158,843	176,617	21,022	1,181	198,820
1854	63,313	45,106	35,353	145,772	158,750	17,608	439	176,797

Shipping.

Year.	Inwards, Tonnage.				Outwards, Tonnage.			
	From Great Britain.	From British Colonies.	From Foreign Countries.	Total.	To Great Britain.	To British Colonies.	To Foreign Countries.	Total.
1852	9,440	13,013	8,088	30,541	10,458	11,326	9,397	31,181
1853	7,069	14,175	5,506	26,750	9,460	10,708	6,336	26,504
1854	6,620	10,853	4,013	21,486	8,930	9,218	4,770	22,918

ST. VINCENT.

Return of Crime and Offences.

Year.	Felons.	Misdemeanors.	Other Offences.	Total.	Increase.	Decrease.	Centesimal Proportion.	Debtors.
1852	28	120	50	198	28	—	·66	45
1853	14	69	31	114	—	84	·38	11
1854	32	57	46	135	21	—	·45	51

Encl. 3 in No 15.

Enclosure 3 in No. 15

RETURN of Debt of this Colony on January 1, 1855.

	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Public salaries and all other grants paid quarterly by warrants from the Executive for the quarter ended the 31st December 1854, and those paid monthly for December - - - - - - - -	2,622 14 5	
Account of J. Rickard - - - - -	288 18 9	
Account of W. Dyer - - - - -	275 0 0	
Account of C. Clinton - - - - -	90 0 0	
Account of Gilpin and Co. (ordered to stand over for further consideration by the Hon. House of Assembly) - - - - - - - -	69 3 0	
Warrants lodged in Treasurer's office and unpaid - -	80 3 4	
Public accounts to 31st December 1854 (including Colonial Hospital accounts) - - - - - -	2,204 15 8	
Two accounts of the Attorney General (not yet passed) -	70 7 0	
Accounts of Messrs. Clowes and Co. (ditto) - - -	81 3 4	
An account for alterations at Government House incurred by Lieut.-Governor MacDonnell (not passed yet) - -	10 0 0	
An item in Mr. Drape's account (ditto) - - - - -	2 18 4	
	5,795 3 10	
Deduct balance in hand 1st January 1855 - -	1,252 11 2	
		4,542 12 8
Treasury notes due in 1855 - - - - - -		1,590 0 0
		6,132 12 8
Debt due by Board of Health for cholera expenses, not included in any of the foregoing items, and now before the Hon. House of Assembly -		929 15 7
Total - - -		£7,132 8 3

(Signed) J. M. GRANT, Treasurer.

Encl. 4 in No. 15.

Enclosure 4 in No. 15.

EXTRACT from a DESPATCH from Lieut.-Governor MACDONNELL, C.B., to his Excellency Sir W. M. G. COLEBROOKE, C.B., dated May 27, 1853.

"4. The actual debt due by the colony on the 1st January 1852 did not exceed 1,453*l.*, as appears from a return of the treasurer's annexed to my predecessor's report on the 'Blue Book' for 1851. This debt was increased to no less a sum than 4,687*l.* on the 1st January of the present year, as stated in the enclosed return from the treasurer. Yet the treasurer has already sufficient funds in hand to pay off the last instalment of that debt, and apply a small balance to the ordinary expenditure."

(Signed) RICHARD GRAVES MACDONNELL,
Lieut.-Governor.

Enclosure 5 in No. 15.

MESSAGE No. 5.

E. EYRE, Lieutenant Governor.

Government House, St. Vincent,
February 13, 1855.

THE Lieutenant Governor has the honour to call the attention of your honourable House to the state of the finances of the colony, and to the urgent necessity of adopting a regular, consistent, and uniform mode of appropriating the public revenue in each year. To this end the Lieutenant Governor would earnestly advise your honourable House to pass an Act granting the revenue to Her Majesty to be applied to the public uses of the colony, in accordance with a schedule to such Act to be attached.

2. This schedule should comprise all the estimates and services contemplated for the year to which it relates; and, in order that your honourable House may have before you the fullest information which it is in the power of the Executive to afford, the Lieutenant Governor has caused to be prepared an estimate in detail, showing the nature and extent of the present establishments, and quoting the authorities under which such exist.

This estimate is also accompanied by a statement of some changes which appeared necessary to render the public service more efficient.

In thus submitting to your honourable House a statement intended to show in detail the probable expenditure on account of the public service for the current year, the Lieutenant Governor begs to point out that most of this expenditure is already fixed by law, and the residue, with some few exceptions, is either fixed by resolution of your honourable House, or necessarily arises out of the first-mentioned expenditure as by law existing.

The statement submitted, therefore, must not be considered (except where specific changes are proposed) as in any way representing the arrangements or the organization which the Executive consider best suited to the wants and circumstances of this colony in its present depressed state, but only as an endeavour (excepting as above mentioned) to place before you, in a clear and connected point of view, what are the existing establishments, and the liabilities connected with them.

It will then be for your honourable House to consider whether any other, and, if so, what more satisfactory arrangements can be devised to enable the public income to meet the public expenditure, without injustice to individuals, and without impairing the efficiency of the executive administration.

Many reforms and many alterations are undoubtedly necessary in some of the public departments, but your honourable House will probably find it the wiser and more practicable course to make such changes by degrees, and as opportunities offer for their being effected, without prejudice to vested interests.

4. The Lieutenant Governor proceeds to offer a few remarks upon some of the establishments or services :—

Lieutenant Governor's Establishment.

It appears, from an estimate formerly laid before your honourable House by the late Lieutenant Governor, and from actual practice since, that an orderly attendant, and an allowance for keeping up the garden are provided for by the colony. The Lieutenant Governor believes both these items to be proper and legitimate charges upon the revenue, but in the peculiar and depressed state of the colony at present, he deems it his duty to recommend that they be struck out of the estimates, until its financial position be so far improved as to admit of their being replaced there without inconvenience.

Twenty pounds will therefore suffice for his establishment, from the date of these estimates, instead of 103*l.* 3*s.* 4*d.*, and a saving of 83*l.* 3*s.* 4*d.* be effected.

In connexion with his department, the Lieutenant Governor has also to bring under the notice of the House that certain personal fees have heretofore been received by the officer administering the government, either in his capacity as Chancellor, or in his office as Governor; these fees, during the last three years, have amounted, according to the blue book returns, to an annual average of 122*l.* 11*s.* 8*d.*

The Lieutenant Governor considers it unsound in principle, and unwise in practice, to pay any public officer whatever by fees or gratuities of any description, and he has therefore directed that all fees received or receivable on his account since entering upon the duties of his office be taken at the Colonial Secretary's office, and paid over into the colonial treasury for the public uses of the colony; this addition to the revenue, added to the saving in the expenditure, will be a gain to the public of 205*l.* 15*s.* on this department alone.

Administration of Justice.

This department involves a very heavy expenditure, but as nearly the whole of it is fixed by law there is no power of recommending any but very minor reductions.

When the colony is able to afford it the Lieutenant Governor would earnestly advise the adoption of circuit courts of the Supreme Court, which, being fixed at Barbadoes, should periodically visit each of the smaller dependencies, and the whole cost of which would be divided amongst the five governments rateably. In conjunction with this

ST VINCENT.

circuit court it would be necessary to have magistrates' quarterly sessions established' presided over by a chairman, who should be a professional man, and act as puisne judge in the absence of the circuit.

The Attorney General being the next officer in the schedule, the Lieutenant Governor begs to bring under the notice of your honourable House that an irregular and most inconvenient practice has grown up of allowing to that officer certain fees, in addition to his salary, for various services performed for the Executive. These fees or charges for the past year amounted to 159*l.* 2*s.* 4*d.* The Lieutenant Governor advises your honourable House to rescind all such allowances in future, and in lieu thereof to assign an additional 100*l.* per annum of salary to the Attorney General, to cover all demands made upon his time or services by the Executive, of whatever character they may be.

The Lieutenant Governor cannot either omit the present opportunity of pointing out the unsatisfactory nature of the arrangements under which the Attorney General of the colony is called upon to prepare all bills, and in any form which any member of your honourable House may wish to introduce, by which his time and attention are often taken up in preparing documents which, professionally, he cannot approve of; which, in many instances, are never likely to become law; and which, in others, if passed through both branches of the legislature, must again be reviewed and reported upon by the Attorney General as the legal adviser of the Crown, and very often opinions be given in relation to them, pointing out (owing to alterations made whilst passing through the legislature) their illegality, their inconsistency, or their unsuitability to the end proposed.

The Lieutenant Governor cannot too strongly urge upon your honourable House, that the Attorney General should only be called upon to prepare such bills as may be recommended by members of your honourable House, being also members of the Executive Council, and that all others should be prepared by the members themselves who wish to introduce them, as is the case in England, and in many of our colonies.

The provost marshal's is an office held under a patent, and therefore not to be equitably disturbed during the tenure of the present holder; but the Lieutenant Governor is of opinion, that in proportion to the pay of other offices, the salary and emoluments attached to it are much too high, and whenever a vacancy occurs, he would recommend that a revision should be made, all personal fees abolished, and the office be united with that of police magistrate, by which the cost of one of those departments would be saved—a consolidation which he has known to answer and work well in colonies possessing a much larger population, and a far greater revenue than St. Vincent.

The office of clerk of the Crown requires no further notice, than from the impropriety of its being held by an officer filling the high and responsible position of Colonial Secretary; but this functionary holds so many and such incompatible appointments, that, until some effectual change can be brought about, it is impossible the machinery of government can work smoothly or satisfactorily. The Colonial Secretary is properly and ought to be the chief officer of the executive, and his standing and position should be second only to that of the Chief Justice, but in this colony, instead of being a member of the Legislative and Privy Councils, the Colonial Secretary acts as their clerk, and has only precedence after all the members of the House of Assembly.

In addition to the offices already mentioned, of colonial secretary, clerk of the Privy Council, clerk of the Legislative Council, and clerk of the Crown, the officer holding these appointments also holds, in conjunction with them, the still more incompatible offices of secretary of the Supreme Court, and registrar of wills and deeds. He may thus be required, at one and the same moment, to act as secretary of the Supreme Court, as registrar of deeds or wills, as clerk to the Legislative Council, and to attend upon the Lieutenant Governor in the capacity of colonial secretary. The absurdity of such a state of things is too obvious to call for further remarks, and as might be supposed, the duties of so many and such incongruous offices are not and could not be properly performed by any one person. The fault is not in the individual who holds such a plurality of offices, but in the system which permits it.

The Lieutenant Governor would strongly recommend, that whenever the opportunity offers for making the change, a separate officer should be appointed, under the title of "Registrar," who should unite in his person the duties of registrar of deeds and wills, secretary of the Supreme Court, registrar of births, deaths, and marriages (when an Act is passed requiring such registry), and curator of intestate estates; these offices being in themselves all compatible, and the duties, in such a colony as this, easily dischargeable, by any one person of ordinary industry and ability.

The next department requiring to be noticed is that of the coroners, in which the charges paid by the public are unusually high, being, I am informed, at the rate 4*l.* 3*s.* 4*d.* for each inquest (in one case as much as 8*l.* 6*s.* 8*d.*)

But, as the rates are said to be sanctioned by the legislature, and the coroners hold their offices under commissions, it would seem unjust to alter the scale of pay to the present holders; the house will, however, appreciate the costly rate at which this service is obtained, when informed that in the colony from which the Lieutenant Governor last came, and where the expense of living and moving about were quite as great as in St. Vincent, 20*s.* per inquest, and 9*d.* mileage, were the rates established by law. Connected with this question is that of remuneration of medical witnesses, and the Lieutenant Governor would advise that a law should be enacted, fixing such a scale as your honour-

able House may deem fair and reasonable. In the colony referred to the fee for giving evidence was 1*l.* 1*s.*, and 1*s.* mileage, and if called upon to make a post mortem examination, 2*l.* 2*s.* additional.

Treasurer's and Collector of Customs' Department.

The customs establishment appears to require an entire re-organization to make it effective, but as the necessary changes would entail some additional expense, it will probably be better to leave the department as it is, at least for the present year. The Lieutenant Governor cannot omit, however, bringing under the notice of your honourable House the impolicy of giving the heads of departments high rates of salary, and leaving them to organise their establishments in any way they place ; sound policy requires that all persons employed in any department should be regarded as being in the public service, and not in the private employ of the individuals who may, for the time being, be at the head of such department.

In the treasury department, the gentleman who acts as clerk is paid 150*l.* per annum by the treasurer, and is considered as his private clerk. The Lieutenant Governor would advise your honourable House to withdraw 150*l.* per annum from the salary of the treasurer, and to vote it instead as salary to his clerk, so as to give that officer a proper standing in the public service.

Colonial Secretary's Department.

Having already drawn the attention of your honourable House to the incompatible nature of the offices held by and the duties expected from the Colonial Secretary, the Lieutenant Governor will now confine his observations to the state of the secretary's department. In this office are at present two clerks, each of whom is receiving from the Colonial Secretary a salary of 75*l.* per annum, and both are regarded as his private clerks. One of these clerks has been in the office only a few months, but the other has been employed there for a period of ten years. That this gentleman has been a useful and hardworking servant of the public (though not recognized as such) is fully proved by the numerous records kept in his handwriting, and the Lieutenant Governor can himself bear testimony to his industry and exertions, during the period he has been personally in the colony.

It does seem a very hard case that a young man so situated and so deserving should, after ten long years of service, be in no better position than that of receiving 75*l.* per annum, without any prospect of advancement in the public service, and without being recognized as belonging to it. The Lieutenant Governor would earnestly recommend your honourable House to do what in this case would be a simple act of justice. He would recommend your honourable House to withdraw a sum of 150*l.* per annum from the salary, proposed to be given, under bill, to the Colonial Secretary, and to apply it instead, as a salary, to the two clerks, at the rate of 75*l.* each, and thus place both those officers upon a proper footing in the public service ; but the Lieutentant Governor would further recommend your honourable House to vote an additional sum of 50*l.* per annum to the senior clerk for the present year, and to raise this very inadequate amount again to 150*l.* another year, if the revenue of the colony is then able to bear the increase.

The Lieutenant Governor would only remark further, in reference to the department under consideration, that whenever a vacancy occurs in the office of Colonial Secretary, it will be highly advantageous in this, as in all other cases, to assign a fixed salary to the office, and to require that all fees and gratuities of every description be paid into the Colonial Treasury for the public uses of the colony.

Police Establishment.

The present limited strength of the Police Force is not sufficient for the ordinary requirements of the colony, and would be most inadequate in case of any emergency arising. In the absence of any military, militia, or volunteers, the Lieutenant Governor would gladly see a more numerous and a more efficient Police Corps established ; but in the existing state of the colonial finances he does not feel justified in recommending any other alterations than an addition of 50*l.* per annum to the salary of the superintendent.

Gaol Establishment.

The expenditure of this department is very considerable, and the salaries appear high, (in Grenada the gaoler receives 100*l.*, the matron 36*l.*, two turnkeys 36*l.* each, and a superintendent of penal gang 63*l.*,) but being fixed by law, a difficulty exists in altering them. The only reduction, therefore, which seems practicable, is to dispense with one of the three superintendents, and re-employ him in the first vacancy which occurs in the Police Force, if disposed to enter that service. The cost of rations is very high, but the daily average number of prisoners is also very large, amounting to no less than thirty-four per day throughout the past year.

Surveyor and Engineer's Department.

This establishment is already provided for by law, and the Lieutenant Governor believes it will prove one of the most useful and economical arrangements yet made by

ST. VINCENT.

the honourable House. One of the most important advantages resulting from it will be a vigilant and skilled supervision of all expenditure laid out upon the roads.

Auditor General's Department.

The necessity for this department has been long felt, and the Lieutenant-Governor believes your honourable House will exercise a wise and judicious economy in at once providing for it. The cost of the department will probably soon be saved, in the regular and careful examination of the public accounts, independently of the direct saving in the cessation of the payment heretofore made for auditing the treasurer's accounts.

Harbour-master's Department.

The necessity of having some officer to act as harbour master and quarantine officer, and to board vessels on behalf of the Customs, seems too obvious to require any comment. The Lieutenant Governor proposes, if your honourable House sanctions the expense, that Mr. Lomas should be nominated to the post, and should retain with it his present duties as Keeper of Fort Charlotte. The very inadequate remuneration of 75*l.* has been suggested in consideration of the depressed state of the public finances, but with a recommendation that it should be raised to 100*l.* next year.

Clerical Department.

The clerical establishment is a very heavy charge upon the revenue, amounting to nearly one fifth of the whole, but being fixed by law seems to call for no further remark.

Roads.

In the present state of the finances of the colony the Lieutenant Governor recommends your honourable House to strike off from the appropriations made out of the general revenue all sums payable on account of roads, and to provide for the roads being kept in repair, by an Act throwing the burden (as it ought to be thrown) upon the districts or parishes, to be met by local assessment upon lands or houses, and by taxes upon horses, mules, wheel carriages, &c. &c. This arrangement, whilst it will be a step in the right direction towards a system of providing locally for local objects, will not prevent the services of the colonial engineer being made available in superintending and directing the expenditure of all moneys raised for the purpose, as the executive would always take care to direct that officer to undertake the duty, under the general direction of the local committees of each district.

Miscellaneous Department.

The first item is salary to the Government printer, paid heretofore apparently without any sanction of law, and on account of no service, that the Lieutenant Governor is aware of, inasmuch as all the printing done for the colony is paid for independently. The Lieutenant Governor proposes to withdraw a salary drawn under such circumstances, and to pay in future only for work actually done.

The Lieutenant Governor regrets that a larger sum cannot be put upon the estimates for the Colonial Hospital, but he earnestly trusts that so useful and necessary an institution may again shortly be opened, even if only upon a limited scale, in the hope that another year larger funds may be applicable to its more complete reorganization; whenever this can be undertaken, the Lieutenant Governor would strongly recommend the appointment of a colonial surgeon, at a moderate fixed salary, who should have charge of the hospital, and attend the gaol, the police, lunatics, and paupers. The appointment of coroner might also be usefully and economically combined with that of colonial surgeon.

The colonial agent's salary is now recommended to be withdrawn, as the colony does not derive, and has not derived for a great number of years, any advantages whatever from having such an agent.

Education.

The last, but not the least important, service on the schedule, is that of education. The Lieut. Governor cannot too urgently impress upon your honourable House the necessity of making the largest provision possible, in the present state of the colony, for ensuring the systematic and permanent establishment of schools, and he would earnestly request you to endeavour to secure the most useful and extensive application of whatever system may be devised, by endeavouring to found it upon such principles, of a general and liberal kind, as may ensure the co-operation and support of all religious bodies.

5. The total cost of all the departments and services proposed to be provided for amounts to 14,330*l.* 2*s.* 5*d.*; but it must be remembered that this includes everything, and that there will be nothing unknown or unexpected to be met hereafter in the shape of public accounts. Indeed the Lieutenant Governor holds it to be essential to the satisfactory working of the new system of conducting the financial arrangements, that no service should be provided for or expenditure incurred, either by Act or under resolution of your honourable House, which does not appear in the annual estimates, and for which adequate means of provision are not clearly shown in the estimate of revenue for the year.

In cases of emergency, or where, from unforeseen circumstances, the provision made for any particular service is likely to prove insufficient, the proper course to adopt will be to bring in a supplemental supply bill, specifying the additional sums required, and showing how such are to be met by the revenue.

6. The Lieutenant Governor also begs to bring under the notice of your honourable House, that although the sums inserted in the schedule must, if voted, be considered as the maximum expenditure to be incurred for the services to which they respectively relate, such sums are by no means to be considered as the minimum, but every practicable saving will be strictly and rigidly enforced in the application of the funds.

It must also be pointed out that the practice heretofore prevailing of paying personally to officers allowances provided for the contingencies of their departments, as for stationery, forms, rent of office, &c., will at once be done away with, and the amounts provided for such services be only disbursed for the actual service, when carried out, in accordance with a requisition sent in to and approved by the Lieutenant Governor, prior to the expense being incurred. By these and other concurrent arrangements, the Lieutenant-Governor trusts that the public expenditure will for the future be placed under a careful and efficient supervision and control.

7. The Lieutenant Governor now turns to the ways and means of providing for the expenditure proposed.

He finds, from the Estimate of Revenue laid before your honourable House upon the opening of the present session,—

	£	s.	d.
That the estimated revenue then calculated upon, exclusive of the proceeds arising under the Wine Act, was - - -	13,495	0	0
But the Lieutenant Governor is led to believe that a small increase upon the Quarantine Tax of 4*d.* on tonnage, may take place to the amount of about - - - - -	66	13	4
Making, therefore, the revenue, under the heads calculated upon at the time that estimate was made out, to be - - -	13,561	13	4

and consequently leaving a deficiency of 768*l.* 9*s.* 1*d.* to be paid for in some other way. To meet this it is proposed to amend the Act which imposes a duty of 1*s.* 6*d.* per ton upon shipping, and substitute for that amount a sum of 2*s.* 2*d.*, being an increase of 8*d.* per ton; but as this extra duty will not fall upon the small inter-colonial traders, the tax will, it is hoped, prove both useful and inoppressive, and not in any way interfere with that freedom of commercial intercourse which it is so desirable to promote.

Another source, from which it is proposed to raise a small amount of revenue, is by requiring auctioneers to take out licences, and by imposing a duty of one per cent. upon the gross proceeds of all sales by auction. The licences of this description are customary in almost every colony but this, and the utility of placing the auction business under some kind of guarantee is obvious. The same fee as charged in Grenada, viz., 20*l.* for each licence, might be properly adopted here.

The proceeds of these two additional taxes are estimated as follows, viz: —

	£	s.	d.
Additional tonnage duty of 8*d.* - - - -	533	6	8
Auctioneers' licences and one per cent. on auction sales - -	62	10	9
To these are to be added fees heretofore paid to the Lieutenant Governor - - - - - - -	122	11	8
Miscellaneous receipts (amounting in 1854 to 75*l.* 5*s.* 3*d.*) - -	50	0	0
Total	768	9	1

making together a sum which just balances the deficiency.

9. In submitting this estimate to your honourable House, the Lieutenant Governor has taken no account of the proceeds to be received under the "Wine Act, 1855," as all such receipts have been specifically set apart by your Honourable House, to meet the outstanding liabilities incurred for public accounts prior to his assumption of the government of this colony. These liabilities, as far as the Lieutenant Governor is able to ascertain, amount to a sum of rather more than 4,000*l.*, and it will unavoidably require some considerable time to pay them off, under the arrangements made, though he believes that there is no reason to doubt their being easily paid off under the Act passed for that purpose.

10. There is still one more large and important item, not yet referred to, and still to be met. The Treasury notes issued on account of quarantine and cholera, amounting in the aggregate to 1,590*l.*, and all falling due during the present year.

This amount has not been introduced into the estimates, because it is unconnected with the expenditure of the year, but the Lieutenant Governor proposes that it shall be met by a duty upon tobacco. In most colonies, as in England, tobacco pays a high duty, and the Lieutenant Governor believes it to be one of the best and most legitimate and least oppressive sources of raising a very considerable revenue An objection has been urged that tobacco is easily smuggled, but in the colony that the Lieutenant-Governor lately came from the facilities for smuggling were certainly as great as they can be here, and yet a very large amount was annually raised, by imposing a duty of 2*s.* per lb. on snuffs and cigars, and 1*s.* per lb. on all other kinds of tobacco.

ST. VINCENT.

The Lieutenant Governor would propose that the same scale should be adopted here, and your honourable House will find, from a return appended to the estimates, showing the average importation of tobacco during the last five years, that the large sum of considerably more than 2,000*l.* will be easily raised, and without oppression or injury to any of the true interests of the colony.

This sum will not only cover the total amount of Treasury notes, but leave a considerable surplus to be carried to the general revenue of the colony; and here the Lieutenant Governor would especially urge upon your honourable House, if disposed to sanction the arrangements which have been suggested, not to insert in any Act, to be hereafter passed, for raising a revenue or imposing taxes, any restricting clause applying such revenue or taxes to any specific purpose, but rather to allow all such receipts to be paid into the general revenue of the country, and the specific object contemplated then be met, out of such general revenue, in the usual manner.

The Lieutenant Governor has now only to congratulate your honourable House that notwithstanding the very gloomy prospects in which the finances of this colony were involved when he addressed the Legislature at the opening of the sessions in the beginning of the year—notwithstanding the heavy outstanding debts then existing, and notwithstanding the fact that a very large additional debt would become due before its expiry,—there is still hope, a reasonable and just hope, that, by a judicious arrangement of the means within your reach for raising an increased amount of revenue, and in a way which will not oppress or burden any of the really important interests of the country (beyond what they ought fairly to be called upon to bear), the whole of the current expenditure may be fully provided for, the large debt falling due be duly met, and the outstanding claims of past years placed in a fair way of final liquidation; and all this done, too, concurrently with a considerable improvement in the organization of the public departments, and with a renewal of the appropriation for the important business of education.

The Lieutenant Governor thinks that such a prospect, dawning, as it does, even through the gloom of difficulty and debt by which the colony is beset, may well be regarded as a matter of sincere congratulation, and may well lead him reasonably to look forward to the realization of the hopes he expressed in addressing the legislature at the commencement of the year, when he ventured to anticipate that it was possible that, even by the time he was called upon to address them at the same period next year, those difficulties would be removed, those debts paid or in a fair way of being paid, and a more cheering and satisfactory prospect opened out for the future.

12. Whilst, however, the Lieutenant Governor feels that he may justly congratulate the colony upon the prospect which exists of the present financial difficulties being met, and a better state of things established for the future, he cannot forget that this must in a great measure depend upon your honourable House;—the Executive is powerless, unless seconded by your active and zealous co-operation.

And it is especially the duty of the Lieutenant Governor to warn your honourable House, that it will not be sufficient to obtain relief for existing difficulties, but that such wise and necessary measures must be adopted as will prevent a recurrence of them, and no means appear to the Lieutenant Governor more conducive to this end than the proper organization of the Executive departments, and the establishment of such an Executive Council, for aiding the Governor in his administration, as he has ventured to suggest to the legislature in a bill, which has been prepared under his directions, and which will shortly be introduced into your honourable House by the organ of the government.

By his Excellency's command,
GEORGE HAMMOND HAWTAYNE,
Private Secretary.

To his Honour the Speaker and Members of
the Honourable House of Assembly.

Enclosure 6 in No. 15.

An ACCOUNT of Produce made in the several Parishes in this Colony during the Crop, 1853.

Names of Parishes.	Sugar.			Puncheons of Rum.	Puncheons of Molasses.	Pounds of Sugar.	Gallons of Rum.	Gallons of Molasses.	Pounds of Arrowroot.	Number of Labourers.
	Hogsheads.	Tierces.	Barrels.							
Charlotte Parish - -	4,822	33	69	1,137¾	871	8,645,071	127,424	103,406	195,315	2,624
St. George's „ - -	1,931	4	592	265	710½	3,407,813	35,723	64,819	116,384	1,110
St. Andrew's „ - -	782		9	92½	324	1,361,009	9,386	36,449	5,120	372
St Patrick's „ - -	570	15	500	139	156½	1,088,952	17,578	18,616	107,045	463
St. David's „ - -	807	93	702	96½	334	1,664,272	10,144	34,368	12,540	890
Grenadines - -	81	24	11	31½	28½	167,196	3,812	3,226		123
Small cultivators - -									107,863	
TOTALS - -	8,993	169	1,883	1,762¼	2,424½	16,334,313	204,067	263,876	544,267	5,582

An ACCOUNT of Produce made in the several Parishes in this Colony during the Crop, 1854.

Names of Parishes.	Sugar.			Puncheons of Rum.	Puncheons of Molasses.	Pounds of Sugar.	Gallons of Rum.	Gallons of Molasses.	Pounds of Arrowroot.	Pounds of Cotton.	Number of Labourers.
	Hogsheads.	Tierces.	Barrels.								
Charlotte Parish - -	3,832	34	160	1,237¼	311	6,689.612	126,704	31,096	241,776	—	2,217
St. George's do. - -	2,517	41	517	605	469½	4,318,775	63,738	48,696	117,480	—	773
St. Andrew's do. - -	875	22	21	132½	299	1,467,624	21,760	24,390	5,300	—	420
St. David's do. - -	903	93	12	155½	189	1,609,049	16,713	19,392	—	—	842
St. Patrick's do. - -	455	1	250½	187½	44	842,638	19,498	3,970	8,402	Ginger 100 Cotton	504
The Grenadines - -	75	51	49	54	10	206,838	7,021	1,010	97	16,041	161
Small Cultivators - -							—	—	57,152	—	—
Total - - -	8,657	242	1,010½	2,371¾	1,322½	15,134,536	255,434	128,554	430.207	Ginger 100 Cotton 16,041	4,917

ST. VINCENT.

Enclosure 7 in No. 15.

Encl. 7 in No 15. ABSTRACT RETURN of all Prisoners received into the Kingstown Gaol for Trial before the Court of Grand Sessions during the Years 1853 and 1854.

OFFENCES.	1854.				1853.			
	Committed.		Convicted.		Committed.		Convicted.	
	Black and Coloured Persons.	White Persons.	Black and Coloured Persons.	White Persons.	Black and Coloured Persons.	White Persons.	Black and Coloured Persons.	White Persons.
Offences against the Person :								
Assault common—								
with intent to wound - -	8	–	6	–	9	–	8	–
„ to commit rape -	1	–	–	–	1	–	1	–
Murder - - -	–	–	–	–	*2	2	1	2
Robbery from the person -	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Other offences - - -	3	–	3	–	4	–	1	–
	12	–	9	–	16	2	11	2
Offences against Property :								
Burglary - - -	1	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Breaking into Dwelling and Embezzlement - -	–	–	–	–		–		–
Larceny - - -	2	–	2	–	6	–	6	–
Stealing, killing, or wounding sheep, cattle ; and other offences - - -	4	–	2	–	6 6	–	6 5	–
	7	–	4	–	18	–	17	–
Miscellaneous :								
Escape - - -								
Libel - - - -								
Riot - - - -			Nil.					
Keeping Disorderly Houses -								
Other offences - -								
Total - -								
General Total -	19		13		35	2	28	2

* REMARKS.—One black man died before trial.

ABSTRACT RETURN of all Prisoners received into the Kingstown Gaol under Sentences rom Stipendiary or Police Magistrates or Justices of the Peace during the Years 1853 and 1854.

OFFENCES.	1853.		1854.		Remarks.
	Black and Coloured Persons.	White Persons.	Black and Coloured Persons.	White Persons.	
Assault - -	40	—	14	—	
Breach of peace -	—	—	1	—	
Deserting ship - -	—	3	—	3	There is no way of distinguishing between the black, coloured, and white further than has been done.
Refusing to work -	—	1	2	—	
Breach of contract -	8	—	10	11	
Drunkenness - -	—	9	4	—	
Larceny, Petty -	21	—	39	—	
Other offences - -	3	—	14	—	Abusive words, &c. &c. are included in other offences.
Debt under £1 -	1	—	17	—	
„ 2 -	—	—	12	—	
„ 3 -	—	—	7	—	
„ 5 -	—	—	10	—	
„ 10 -	—	—	4	—	
„ 20 -	—	—	—	—	There are many amounts above 20*l.*
Total -	73	13	134	14	

Enclosure 8 in No. 15.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor Sir W. M. G. COLEBROOKE to the LIEUTENANT-GOVERNOR of ST. VINCENT.

(No. 390.)

SIR, Windward Islands, Barbadoes, May 17, 1855.

I HAVE received your Despatch, No. 52, of the 2d instant, with the "Blue Book" of St. Vincent for 1854.

The condition of the colony, as described in your Report, is discouraging, and your remarks and suggestions being for the most part a recapitulation of our previous correspondence on the subjects referred to, I will briefly allude to them in the order in which they occur.

On the subject of the finances of the colony I have already fully expressed my concurrence in your opinion of the defective system which has prevailed in St. Vincent, and generally in all the West India colonies.

In the time of slavery, and while the legislative bodies were composed of the leading and most influential proprietors who resided on their estates, the system was not ill-adapted to their circumstances; and if, after the abolition of slavery and the departure of so many proprietors, the practice had not been allowed to grow up of raising the revenue by levying duties on commerce in substitution for assessed taxes and local rates, the irregularities of which you justly complain would not have occurred, as greater vigilance would have been exercised by the people over their representatives, and a reform of the system would probably have ensued. No doubt the difficulties which have arisen in St. Vincent are attributable in a great measure to the outbreak of the cholera in the last year, and the expenses entailed by it on the colonies which suffered; but still they are also referable to the defective system under which the finances have been administered, and which your predecessor and yourself have endeavoured to rectify.

As chartered colonies, it has already been explained, that without their concurrence Her Majesty's Government have been reluctant to originate measures involving changes in their constitution, or to interpose by the exercise of the prerogative of the Crown; and the interposition of Parliament has been sought only to the extent of obtaining an Act to authorize the convention of a general legislature, it being considered that if a colonial parliament were to be convened the necessary reforms in the local administration of the several colonies would be readily effected under its auspices, especially if the proprietors, who are generally absent from the colonies, would take part in its proceedings.

The delay, however, in applying to Parliament has rendered it advisable to take immediate steps to remedy some of the most prominent defects, and as the jealousies subsisting between the councils and assemblies have been an obstacle to their amalgamation the proposal to form executive councils from the members of both branches has been recommended to them together with executive committees to control and regulate the finances, and I regret to learn from you, since the date of your Despatch, that this measure, which was adopted by the Assembly of St. Vincent, has been rejected by the Council, but I hope that better success may attend it when again brought forward. It must be remarked, however, that the failure of the measures adopted in the last year for limiting the number of assemblymen to form a house 11 to 9, and for appointing a government organ in the assembly, indicates the little reliance to be placed on local changes in the constitution of these colonies without the aid of more comprehensive measures by which the leading and more influential persons connected with them may be induced to take an active part in their general administration.

In regard to the relief of the finances by means of a loan, you are already aware, from my Circular Despatch of the 23d January last, that Her Majesty's Government have declined to hold out an expectation that such accommodation will be afforded. The necessary reforms must therefore be adopted as in Tobago without such a condition, and as an Act has there been passed for the appointment of a separate executive council, and a stipendiary committee, I hope that these measures will ultimately be adopted in all these colonies, where the payment of the committees for the executive duties devolving on them will prove to be a measure of economy through the improved management of the public finances.

In my earlier communications after your arrival, I impressed on you the importance of preventing irregularities, in so far as it could be done by withholding warrants for the payment of monies where funds had not been provided to meet them, although legislative assistance is required for the complete reform of the financial system.

I cannot omit to notice your transfer to the treasury of certain fees which have long ceased to be received in the other colonies, and I concur in your objection to the payment of public officers by fees.

I regret to observe from the returns to which you refer that the exports of the colony have declined, and that valuable estates are going out of cultivation; results which I apprehend are attributable to local as well as to general causes.

ST. VINCENT.

The reports of your predecessor described the injurious effects arising from improvident management of encumbered estates, but the competition with slave-grown sugars and the high duties levied in the United Kingdom, by checking consumption, have tended also to diminish profits and check the influx of capital.

It only remains for me to notice your remarks upon the state of crime in St. Vincent, and as two of the three persons who were convicted of murder in the last year were European foreigners, and one an ignorant African who had been made their accomplice, I hope that these cases do not indicate a tendency to increase in the higher offences, which are less prevalent in the West Indies than in older and more advanced communities.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. M. G. COLEBROOKE.

P.S.—I have forwarded the "Blue Book" in the form in which it has been received to prevent the delay in having it bound.

(Signed) W. M. G. C.

ST. LUCIA.

ST. LUCIA.

No. 16.

No. 16.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor General Sir W. M. G. COLEBROOKE to the Right Hon. Lord JOHN RUSSELL.

(No. 33.)

Windward Islands, Barbados, June 11, 1855.
(Received June 29, 1855.)

MY LORD,

No. 53, 4th June 1855.

I HAVE the honour to forward a Despatch from the Lieut.-Governor of Saint Lucia, containing his Report, with the "Blue Book" for 1854, and in reference to his remark that the Council had rejected his proposal to aid the establishment of a Grammar School in the island, it may facilitate an object of much importance to procure an estimate of the charge for which a competent teacher might be obtained in England, and if your Lordship would authorize the Council to guarantee the charge for a term of three years at the expense of the colony.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. M. G. COLEBROOKE.

The Right Hon. Lord John Russell,
&c. &c. &c.

Encl. 1 in No. 16.

Enclosure 1 in No. 16.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Lieut.-Governor POWER to Governor Sir W. M. G. COLEBROOKE.

(No. 53.)

St. Lucia, June 4, 1855.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Excellency the "Blue Book" of this colony for the year 1854. This financial statement exhibits on the whole a comparatively satisfactory state of affairs.

The event by which the year 1854 will be rendered memorable in the annals of St. Lucia was the appearance here for the first time of Asiatic cholera. The first case occurred in Castries on the 12th June, after which there was not another until about the middle of the following month. It then attacked in succession every town, village, and hamlet in the island. At first the whole community was completely paralyzed, and a panic pervaded all classes of people; but ere it ceased a stranger coming amongst us would not have known that such a fearful disease existed here. Circumstanced as this colony is, without local bodies to afford the slightest assistance, you can readily conceive that the executive government had to encounter difficulties of no ordinary kind. It is but justice, however, to state that the efforts of the local government were ably seconded by the efforts of the medical practitioners, the ministers of religion, and many other persons, who undertook the task of daily visitation, and thus prevented or mitigated a large amount of human suffering.

When the news that cholera had broken out in Barbados reached this island, I lost no time in submitting to the Legislative Council an ordinance to establish a Board of Health. That body was soon actively employed. The streets were cleansed, houses and premises were inspected, and all offensive matter removed. As soon as the disease made its appearance, supplies of medicines, with printed instructions for their use, were distributed amongst the clergy, planters, managers of estates, and other intelligent members of the community.

The benefits resulting from preliminary sanitary measures have been nowhere more strongly exemplified than in Saint Lucia. In the town of Castries, built on a swamp, and partially surrounded by a swamp, with a population of 3,000 souls, the mortality was comparatively trifling, while in the other towns and villages in which the precautionary measures to which I have just alluded were neglected, the ravages of the disease were awful.

Revenue and Expenditure.

Revenue.

	£	s.	d.
The net amount of the general revenue for the year 1853, irrespective of deposit balances, was	12,521	16	4
The net amount of the general revenue for the year 1854, irrespective of deposit balances, was	14,098	12	1½
Showing an increase of in favour of 1854.	£1,576	15	9½

Expenditure.

	£	s.	d.
The net expenditure for the year 1853	12,449	14	10½
The net expenditure for 1854 was	13,565	1	4½
Showing an excess of over the year 1853.	£1,115	6	6

There has been no increase whatever in the taxation on the year 1854, as compared with the year 1853.

The increase in the revenue appears to have arisen under the following heads:—

	£	s.	d
Imports	1,229	19	10
Rum tax	1,193	12	9½
Spirit licences	93	0	0
Breaches of tax ordinance	140	12	5
Registrars returns	36	2	9½
	£ 2,693	7	10

		£	s.	d.
From which, however, must be deducted the amount of export duty on sugar not levied during the past year, amounting to	£ 912 15 11			
And the instalment of the Vieille Ville, not paid in	201 0 0			
		1,113	15	11
		£1,579	15	11

The increase in the item of imports has arisen in consequence of shipments due at the latter end of 1853 not arriving until January 1854, whereby an apparent decrease was shown in 1853 on the same item, and the fact of the fall ships of 1854 arriving out within the year.

The increase in the next important item, the rum tax, must be attributed to the beneficial working of the ordinance for its more efficient collection, on the principle of a moderate excise.

ST. LUCIA.

The increase in the expenditure has arisen in the following items :—

	£	s.	d.
Works and buildings	343	17	3½
Charitable allowances	72	16	4
Provisions for gaol and asylum	233	6	4
Expenses in criminal cases	104	9	6
Printing the laws of the colony	100	0	0
Miscellaneous	282	9	3½
	£1,136	18	9

The first item arose in consequence of the necessity of repairing the government house, and cost 249*l.* 17*s.* 3½*d.*, and the purchase and repair of a building for the reception of paupers afflicted with yaws, at the cost of 94*l.*

The 2d, 3d, and 6th items were the consequence of the cholera, when it became necessary to issue many comforts to paupers and prisoners, and a daily ration of bread and butchers' meat. The 4th item increased by reason of some important criminal cases at the assizes, and the fact of the jurors being paid for their attendance at such assizes by the colony, according to the distance they had travelled and the time they remained in attendance.

It is satisfactory to be able to state that the revenue has not only not fallen off but has considerably improved, notwithstanding the awful visitation of cholera. Though the expenditure was greatly increased by it, still we had only to provide a sum of 600*l.*, which, together with the surplus revenue, was sufficient to cover all expenses.

Public Works.

The principal item under this head consists of a sum of 249*l.* 17*s.* 3½*d.* expended on the repairs of government house, and of the sum of 94*l.* for the purchase and repair of a building for the reception of paupers afflicted with "yaws."

The government house is an old wooden building which will require a constantly recurring outlay to keep it together.

Legislation.

The principal legislative enactments of the year consisted of an ordinance to provide for the immigration of coolies, and one for establishing a militia in St. Lucia.

With regard to the first it is greatly to be regretted that a delay of a year must occur ere the coolies can leave India, on account of the local government not having made any provision for emigration to St. Lucia and Grenada.

The militia bids fair to be one of the best bodies of the kind in the West Indies. It is composed of persons selected under a certain qualification which ensures a fair amount of respectability.

Education.

During the greater part of the year the schools throughout the island were closed owing to the cholera. The teachers, however, were better employed than when pursuing their ordinary duties. They were engaged in attending the sick in their districts, and I have reason to know that they rendered most important services in this respect. Towards the close of the year I visited every school in the colony, examined the pupils, and distributed prizes. I am unable to speak favourably of the result of the examinations, but this is easily accounted for,—the children had but just begun to return to the schools.

With regard to education this island is in a very anomalous position, for whereas the children of the peasantry have schools within their reach in every part of the island, there is not a single establishment in St. Lucia for educating the children of the upper and middle classes; the consequence is that those parents who can afford it are obliged to send their children to Europe to be educated, while those of small means are compelled to witness the sad spectacle of seeing their little ones grow up in ignorance around them. To remedy this

evil I proposed to the Legislative Council that the local government should establish a grammar school in Castries, and send home for two competent teachers, whose salaries should be guaranteed for a limited term by the local government. The pensions paid by the scholars would, in my opinion, go very far to defray the expenses of such an establishment, but the council showed an unwillingness to entertain the proposition, being apprehensive that the expense would press too heavily on the general revenue.

Agriculture.

I am unable to state that any marked improvement has taken place in the agriculture of St. Lucia during the last year. The clearing of land for ground provisions is steadily progressing, and the working of estates on the Metairie system has lately increased. Should the present low price of sugar continue much longer I am inclined to think that most of the estates will be worked on this system. I cannot say that I regard such a change in a favourable light, because I have observed that those estates on which the above system prevails are badly worked, and all hopes of improvement in the cultivation of the cane and manufacture of sugar would, if it were generally introduced, be long deferred.

Gaols and Prisoners.

It is gratifying to remark that there has been no increase in the amount of crime during the last year. Few crimes of a deep dye are perpetrated in this island; they chiefly consist of petty larcenies and assaults.

The gaol, though considered a good building, does not, I regret, admit of a systematic classification of prisoners and a reformatory discipline. I have been able, however, to remedy the great evil of confining lunatics in the common gaol, by establishing an asylum for them in a separate locality.

General Observations.

Though the cholera produced great afflictions it was not wholly unproductive of good. Concubinage, the master evil of Saint Lucia, has been crushed by it, I trust, for ever. The returns of the stipendiary magistrates give 906 marriages within the year.

I have, &c.
(Signed) MAURICE POWER

His Excellency the Governor-in-Chief,
&c. &c. &c.

ABSTRACT RETURN from Blue Book, 1851-1852-1853-1854.

Revenue.

Year.	Custom Duties.			Assessed and other Taxes.	Total.	Increase.	Decrease.
	Import.	Export.	Tonnage.				
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.		£ s. d.
1851	5,147 17 6½	1,760 9 9½	659 7 2	6,083 11 6½	13,651 6 0½	—	—
1852	5,752 17 6½	1,846 12 10	664 9 8½	4,696 5 5¼	12,960 5 6¼	—	691 0 6¼
1853	5,252 3 8	912 15 11	666 14 7	5,690 2 2	12,521 16 4	—	438 9 2¼
1854	6,482 3 8		744 2 10	6,872 5 9½	14,098 12 1½	1,576 15 9½	

The increase has been principally under the head of Imports and Rum duties, counterbalanced to some extent by the abolition of the export duty on sugar, rum, and molasses.

Expenditure, Colonial.

Year.	Civil Government.	Judicial.	Ecclesiastical.	Poor.	Police.	Prisons.	Other Expenditure.	Total.	Increase.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£. s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1851	3,661 13 6½	2,686 4 7½	1,244 16 3½	240 8 5½	850 10 0	496 3 8	1,952 15 7	11,132 12 2	
1852	3,138 0 6	2,850 1 10	1,267 17 2½	335 6 5½	942 8 0	615 7 2¾	2,540 2 2¾	11,689 3 5½	556 11 3½
1853	3,659 17 10½	2,685 17 1	1,378 4 6½	307 14 3	943 8 0	605 3 0½	2,889 10 1	12,449 14 10½	760 11 5
1854	3,641 0 6	3,116 2 4	1,396 4 11	436 18 6	987 4 0	782 1 5½	3,205 9 8	13,565 1 4½	1,115 6 6

The increase is to be accounted for in the expenditure of nearly 400*l.* for the repairs of Government House, and the purchase and fitting up of a house to be used as an hospital for persons afflicted with the "Yaws;" also an increased amount of drawbacks of duties and the high price of provisions for the Gaol and Asylum for the Poor, together with the unavoidable outlay consequent on the prevalence of cholera.

Expenditure, Local and Parochial.

Year.	Education.	Roads.	All other Parochial Charges.	Total.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1851	853 6 1½	—	838 1 5	1,691 7 6
1852	1,105 0 0	489 11 6	1,167 9 10	2,762 1 4
1853	1,070 18 9½	3,126 4 11½	1,281 5 8	5,478 9 5
1854	1,156 18 7	292 10 2	1,293 9 11	2,742 18 8

The expenditure under the head of Education is exclusive of 470*l.* contributed by the Mico Trust. The decrease under the item of Roads is owing to the exhaustion of the Imperial Loan, and little having been done towards the repairs of the public roads in consequence of cholera. The miscellaneous expenditure consists of 1,218*l.* 1*s.* 1*d.* expended by the Corporation of Castries, and 75*l.* 8*s.* 10*d.* of the revenue raised by a House Tax for local purposes of sanitary improvement.

Expenditure, Great Britain.

Year.	Civil.	Military.	Total.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1851	1,816 18 9	13,317 16 5	15,134 15 2
1852	1,749 19 0	12,705 19 7	14,455 18 0
1853	1,775 4 4	13,033 16 2	14,809 0 6
1854	1,754 10 4	14,768 4 7	16,522 14 11

Population.

Year.	Males.	Females.	Total.	Remarks.
1851	11,763	12,527	24,290	The last Census was taken in June 1851, when the population was returned as 24,185. It had increased to 25,007, and has now decreased to 24,123, consequent on deaths by cholera, which prevailed in all parts of the island during the last six months of 1854.
1852	11,749	12,601	24,350	
1853	12,034	12,973	25,007	
1854	11,511	12,612	24,123	

Land.

Year.	Area in Square Miles.	Acreage under Cultivation.	Remarks.
1851	Unknown.	4,077	
1842	„	4,674	
1853	„	6,103½	
1854	„	4,628	

Coins and Currency.

Year.	Specie in Circulation.	Notes in Circulation.
1851	Unknown - -	Estimated at 5,208*l.*
1852	Ditto - -	Estimated at 4,166*l.* 13*s.* 4*d.*
1853	Estimated at 10,500*l.*	Estimated at 4,166*l.* 13*s.* 4*d.*
1854	Estimated at 10,600*l.*	Estimated at 4,180*l.*

Churches.

Year.	Church of England.	Other Denominations.	Number of Sittings.	Average Attendance.	Per Cent. on Population.	Remarks.
1851	3	10	5,932	7,650	31·63/00	A chapel situated in a remote part of the second district has not been returned as in use this year. The estimated attendance is vague and uncertain.
1852	3	10	5,982	8,000	33·7 00	
1853	3	10	6,575	8,455	33·81/00	
1854	3	9	5,550	7,550	31·28/00	

Schools.

Year.	Church of England.	Other Denominations.	Total Number of Scholars.	Per Cent. on Population.	Remarks.
1851	10	5	904	3·73/00	The schools classed in the first column are so placed merely to distinguish them from column two, which refers to schools having teachers of the Roman Catholic Church, the former being schools established by the Board of Education: six are Sunday Schools for the instruction of African immigrants.
1852	11	9	1,117	4·61/00	
1853	20	2	1,393	5·16/00	
1854	18	4	1,243	5·14/00	

Value in Sterling.

	Imports.				Exports.			
Year.	From Great Britain.	From British Colonies.	From Foreign Countries.	Total.	To Great Britain.	To British Colonies.	To Foreign Countries.	Total.
	£ *s.* *d.*	£ *s.* *d.*	£ *s.* *d.*	£ *s.* *d.*	£ *s.* *d.*	£ *s.* *d.*	£ *s.* *d.*	£ *s.* *d.*
1851	22,179 3 7	29,612 4 9	17,089 17 7	68,881 5 11	45,699 6 6	8,005 18 11	1,180 0 0	54,815 5 5
1852	38,508 16 8	25,800 10 8	16,691 15 3	81,002 2 7	46,553 9 8	7,037 18 8	3,619 2 8	57,210 11 0
1853	26,001 2 8	27,350 5 9	19,298 17 11	72,650 6 4	46,438 9 8	7,930 14 7	2,635 8 7	57,204 12 10
1854	41,966 8 9	27,879 2 11	26,432 19 4	96,278 11 0	46,004 16 5	6,668 1 0	3,163 11 3	55,836 8 8

Shipping.

Year.	From Great Britain.	From British Colonies.	From Foreign Countries.	Total.	To Great Britain.	To British Colonies.	To Foreign Countries.	Total.
1851	2,810	5,364	1,851	10,025	3,548	4,287	2,015	9,850
1852	3,178	4,870	3,109	11,157	3,930	4,830	2,471	11,231
1853	2,226	4,333	3,190	9,749	3,799	4,125	2,352	10,276
1854	3,525	5,743	3,205	12,471	3,434	2,468	5,460	11,362

ST. LUCIA.

Return of Criminal and other Prisoners.

Year.	Men.	Women.	Boys.	Girls.	Total.	Increase.	Decrease.	Debtors.
1851	239	69	3	5	316			
1852	221	39	3	2	265		51	
1853	149	55	2		206		59	
1854	178	21	2		201		5	

Government Office,
Saint Lucia.

J. V. DRYSDALE,
Colonial Secretary.

Enclosure 2 in No. 16.

Encl. 2 in No. 16.

REPORT of the PAVILION COMMITTEE on condition of the Building and Public Furniture contained therein, pursuant to Instructions in the Secretary of State's Despatch, Downing Street, 9th August 1854.

The Pavilion is a wooden building, measuring 80 feet by 62 feet on one flat, situated about 400 feet above the sea, on the southern side of the harbour of Castries, and is divided into a drawing room, a dining room, five bedrooms, a pantry, a gallery, and two porticoes.

The building is in very good repair, and was newly painted and papered in the early part of last year, as will be seen on reference to the Committee's Report hereunto attached, at a cost of 249*l.* 17*s.* 3½*d.* From the perishable nature of wooden buildings in this country the repairs have cost large sums at short intervals, the amounts paid for repairs during the last seven years being nearly 1,300*l.*

31st May 1854.

An inventory of the furniture is annexed, and we beg to report it as being in good condition, although very antiquated in appearance, it having been purchased, we believe, in the year 1819, when the building itself was completed.

30th April 1855.

Castries, St. Lucia, April 30, 1855. (Signed) JAMES MACFARLANE, M.C.
J. V. LEUGER, M. C.
R. G. M'HUGH, H. M.T.
in charge of Works and Buildings.

REPORT of the Committee appointed at a Meeting of the Honourable Board of Legislative Council, on the first day of September 1853, for effecting the Repairs of the Pavilion.

Your Committee beg to report to your Honourable Board that the sum of two hundred and fifty pounds sterling voted has been expended by your Committee in the repairs of the Pavilion; that in deference to the discussion which took place at your Honourable Board your Committee in the first instance took measures to ensure the building being watertight; and upon a close examination of the roof it was found necessary to renew a great portion of the shingling, and many of the boards which were fast becoming rotten. In this upwards of ten thousand shingles were used, and it was a portion of work not calculated on when your Committee made their Report of the 1st Sept. 1853.

Your Committee's attention was next given to the exterior of the building, to which all repairs were made, and the entire thoroughly painted; the interior of the building underwent all necessary repair, and the whole received two coats of paint; the suite of rooms, galleries, &c. were newly tapestried, and the out-offices were repaired and painted.

Your Committee are unable to detail the repairs that have been effected, but the whole of the work having been conducted under the immediate superintendence of Her Majesty's Treasurer without professional assistance, he had such necessary repairs effected as presented themselves in detail, and your Committee conscientiously believe that everything has been done in a complete and economical manner.

A portion of the flooring at the southern entry of the building is uneven from the displacement of the beams, but as the defect is not glaringly perceptible, and the repair would have involved the necessity of raising all that portion of the flooring of the pavilion, your Committee deemed it better to allow it to remain as it is.

Your Committee therefore report to your Honourable Board that the pavilion has been thoroughly repaired, painted, and papered; that having confined themselves within

the limit of the vote of your Honourable Board, and from the unexpected outlay which was found advisable on the roof, they have been unable to extend the repairs to the stables, which require new shingling, some trifling repairs to the doors, and painting.

Castries, May 31, 1854. (Signed) JOHN THOMAS, M.C.
J. P. LEUGER, M.C.
R. G. M'HUGH, H.M.T.

Enclosure 3 in No. 16.

Encl. 3 in No. 16.

INVENTORY of the Furniture, the Property of the Colony in the Pavilion.

Drawing Room.

Two sofas.
Four card tables.
Two sofa tables.
Seventeen drawing-room chairs.
One bronze three-light chandelier.

Dining Room.

One large sideboard.
Two small ditto.
One telescope table and leaves.
One side table.
Twenty three dining-room chairs.
One cellaret.

Office and Gallery.

One ottoman.
Two small tables.
Two easy chairs.
One writing table.
Two office tables.
Eleven chairs.
One small press.
One large armoir.

First Bedroom.

One bedstead and mattress and netting.
One chest of drawers.
One armoir.

Second Bedroom.

One bedstead, mattress and netting.
One chest of drawers.
One dressing table.
One washhand stand.
Ewer, basin, and chamber.
One looking glass.

Third Bedroom.

One bedstead, mattress, and netting.
One dressing table.
One washhand stand.
Ewer, basin, and chamber.
One commode.
One looking glass.

Fourth Bedroom.

One bedstead, mattress, and netting.
One chest of drawers.
One washhand stand.
Ewer, basin, and chamber.
One looking glass.
One dressing table.
One common table.
Two bidets.

Miscellanea.

One chest of drawers.
One washhand stand.
One ewer, basin, and chamber.
One dressing table.
One looking glass.
One commode.

Sundries.

One eight-day clock.
Sixteen common chairs (damaged).
Twenty barrel shades.
Eight side shades.
Three iron bedsteads.
Three deal tables.
One small mattress.
Five screens.

Government House, Saint Lucia,
April 30, 1855.

(Signed) R. G. M'HUGH,
Her Majesty's Treasurer at
St. Lucia, in charge of Works and Buildings.

(True Copy.)
J. V. DRYSDALE, Colonial Secretary.

Enclosure 4 in No. 16.

Encl. 4 in No. 16.

SIR, Castries, St. Lucia, Feb. 1, 1855.

IN compliance with the instructions, I have the honour to make my report as Inspector of Prisons in this island for the past year.

The royal gaol of Castries is the only prison in the island. It is a well-built, commodious, and well-ventilated edifice in masonry, and measures 75 feet in length by 36 feet in width, with an open gallery along the front of nine feet wide. The gaol is surrounded on three sides by high walls, and on the fourth by a wall of four feet

ST. LUCIA.

surmounted by a strong iron railing There are four separate yards within the walls for exercise, &c. The outbuildings consist of an hospital, a house and kitchen for the gaoler, a storeroom attached to the kitchen, a privy, and a building containing two large airy cells for the confinement of dangerous lunatics. There is a small well in the main or front yard of the gaol, but it is not now made use of, as there is also in the same yard a large open reservoir, into and out of which there is continually flowing a copious supply of excellent water. The gaol is at present in good repair, with the exception of the roof of the gallery, which is very leaky in some parts, and requires immediate attention. The iron bars in almost the whole of the windows require to be renewed, being almost entirely eaten through with rust, many being corroded away to the size of a quarter of an inch at the bottoms where they enter the sills.

I must reiterate the recommendation in my last report that the gallery in front of the gaol be jalousied in, as the afternoon sun strikes with such intense heat on that side as to render parties confined there very uncomfortable, and I have myself on several occasions found prisoners in that part of the building without their shirts or trousers having taken off either the one or the other in consequence of the great heat.

I would also recommend that a small kitchen be built for the use of the prisoners as at present they have no place whatever where they can get their rations cooked, except on two or three stones in the open air, and the consequence is that in wet weather their provisions can hardly be cooked at all.

It appears to me that were an open shed thrown over the reservoir it would keep the water continually cool, which it often is not in the middle of the day, and render it more wholesome for the prisoners.

It is very desirable that the masonwork which separates the passage leading to the garret and the wards on the upper story be removed, and a door put up instead, as it would render the day room at the north end of the prison available as a ward, which, in fact, it really is, but cannot be made use of as such in consequence of there being no communication at present with the other wards except through it.

The gaol is capable of containing 130 prisoners, with complete separation of the sexes ; 201 persons were confined during the course of the year, 180 males and 21 females.

There are nine wards on the upper floor of the gaol, measuring sixteen feet by thirteen feet ; of these, two are day rooms, and one is occupied by the turnkey. The attic is divided into three large rooms, where the female prisoners are kept. There are ten cells on the ground floor, which are commodious, clean, and well ventilated.

Prisoners under sentence receive two suits of clothes per annum, which is too small an allowance, as when working outside they are very liable to get wet, be brought back to prison and locked up so, as they very often have not a second suit to put on. No bedding is supplied ; the prisoners in the cells on the ground floor—which is paved with brick, and which I consider unhealthy, as the bricks are hardly ever free from humidity, taking a long time to dry after having been scoured—have raised trestles on which they sleep; those on the upper wards sleep on the floor. The diet consists of half a pound of salt fish and half a pot of farine manioc, or its equivalent of bread.

Debtors receive an alimentary allowance from the incarcerating creditor.

The hours of labour of the penal gang are from six to nine o'clock, and from ten to five p.m. The hours within the gaol walls are from six to ten a.m., and from two to six p.m. The hours allotted for exercise are for male prisoners, from ten to twelve, and for females, from twelve to two o'clock.

The work of the prisoners under sentence of hard labour, and who work outside the gaol, is not fixed ; at one time they are employed in repairing portions of the public roads near Castries, at another in digging gravel for the filling up of the swampy parts of the town, and at others in clearing away and keeping in order the lands of Government House, &c. Those who work within the prison walls are employed in breaking stone.

Tradesmen, such as carpenters, masons, and tailors, are generally employed at their respective crafts during the same hours as the other prisoners.

The female prisoners are employed in cleaning the prison, and the asylum for the poor, and in making clothes for the other prisoners.

Prisoners under criminal sentence are not allowed to receive parcels or letters until they have been inspected by the keeper; and in case of any improper communication being attempted to be made, the keeper is empowered to withhold such parcel or letter until he receives instructions of the provost marshal, who may dispose of them as he deems advisable ; they can receive no visits from their friends or relations, until after the expiration of three months from their committal, and then only in every succeeding three months, except in cases of sickness and under special circumstances. No extra food is allowed without a written order to that effect by the surgeon or provost marshal.

There is no chapel in the prison, nor any suitable apartment for the performance of divine service. The prisoners assemble under the inspection of the officers of the prison on Sundays in one of the day rooms for receiving instruction and saying prayers, when the best separation that the size of the apartment will permit is maintained among them.

The surgeon visits the gaol daily, and also attends whenever called by the keeper ; he keeps a journal in which is inserted the name of each sick prisoner, with the nature of the disease, the treatment or medicines prescribed, and the result of the case. An hospital is attached to the prison with a separate yard for air and exercise.

132 cases are reported as having been taken into hospital during the year, out of which four were fatal; three of cholera, and one from dysentery. The most prevalent diseases were fever, ulcers, diarrhœa, cholorine, and dry cholic. There were but six cases of cholera, three of which were fatal, and this very small number must be attributed to the very judicious and timely steps taken by his Excellency the Lieut.-Governor in releasing a large number of the prisoners unconditionally on the breaking out of the epidemic in the vicinity of the gaol. As the epidemic increased five of the prisoners volunteered, on promise of a pardon at the end of the disease, to bury the dead at Soufriere, and they were sent down to the magistrate there; the rest of the prisoners, with the exception of the four insane persons and one debtor, were then removed to Vieille Ville, (some of then having volunteered to bury the dead,) which was healthy, and which was in the proximity of the land which had been cleared for a cemetery.

They remained at Vieille Ville from 4th August to the 27th November, when they returned, not one of them having died, although they had all been several times attacked with diarrhœa. The rations of the prisoners whilst at Vieille Ville were doubled, and they were also allowed a small quantity of spirits, as many of them were up day and night interring corpses; they also had a blanket each served out to them.

There were four insane persons, three women and one man, in confinement during the year, to find sureties to keep the peace; two were confined in the building which was erected for the lunatics, and the other two in the body of the gaol. One of the women was released as cured in the end of December.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. H. Jennings,
Special Justice, 2d District, and
Inspector of Prisons.

ANTIGUA.

No. 17.

Copy of a DESPATCH from Governor General Mackintosh to the Right Hon. Lord John Russell.

(No. 33.)

Leeward Islands, Antigua, May 22, 1855.

My Lord, (Received June 16, 1855.)

I have the honour to transmit to your Lordship herewith enclosed, in duplicate, the "Blue Book" of this island for 1854.

Revenue and Expenditure.

2. The return under each of these heads, compared with the corresponding ones of the previous year, will be found to be a satisfactory one. In the first there has been an increase of 2,160*l.* 12*s.* 3*d.*; in the second, a decrease (exclusive of a sum of 779*l.* 8*s.* 1½*d.* applied in discharge of obligations incurred in 1853) of 4,016*l.* 15*s.* 0¾*d.*

3. The accession to the revenue has been caused almost entirely by an increased productiveness in the import and tonnage duties, by the amounts respectively of 1,520*l.* 9*s.* 5½*d.* and 472*l.* 8*s.* 6*d.* Such a proof of the improvement in the import trade, in the face of the present reduced price of the staple product of the island, will, probably, be considered by your Lordship to be a fact no less satisfactory than remarkable. It goes far to support an opinion which obtains pretty generally among the better informed of the commercial community here, that the general trade of the island is settling down upon a more solid and reliable basis than that which has supported it for the last few years.

4. It ought not to be overlooked, in scanning these annual statements, that it is the practice, though one perhaps open to sound objection, to merge in the general accounts of the island the receipts and payments due in respect of the savings bank deposits and of the Earthquake Loan. And it is in these incidental heads of charge that the decreased expenditure will be found to have occurred; the amount of deposits withdrawn in 1854 being less than that in 1853 by 1,236*l.* 0*s.* 6*d.*; and the late relaxation in the terms of the repayment of the loan having operated to the extent of relieving the local treasury of what otherwise, for the last year, would have been a charge of 2,323*l.*

Local Revenues.

5. Since the establishment in 1852 of a General Poor-house for the use of the whole island, the produce of the parochial rates have been applied almost exclusively to the payment of the stipends of the clergy, the maintenance of the fabrics of the churches, and certain small outgoings connected with the celebration of divine worship.

Public Debt.

6. The chief part of the debt for which the public is responsible consisted on the 31st of December last of a sum of 65,000*l.*, being the unliquidated residue of the advance made in 1844 to the island, under the sanction of Parliament, of 100,000*l.* towards remedying the destructive consequences of the earthquake of the preceding year. The reductions which have been lately conceded by Her Majesty's Government of the amount of the annual instalments of repayment of the principal, from one tenth to one twentieth, and of the interest from a rate of 5 to one of $3\frac{1}{4}$ per centum, have rendered this obligation a comparatively light and easily manageable one.

7. There are also in the hands of parties resident within the island debentures to the amount of 6,260*l.*, which, to meet a temporary emergency, were issued in 1847 by the Local Treasury. The Act which sanctioned this loan also provided, through the imposition of certain specified taxes, for its redemption; but this provision has not as yet been put in force, the creditors tacitly assenting to the postponement of their claims. At a time when the repayment to the Imperial Treasury of the annual instalments of the Earthquake Loan were about to recommence, it was perhaps as well that no additional pressure should have been laid on the springs of production; but inasmuch as these debentures are bearing an interest of 6 per centum, it will doubtless be one of the first application that will be made of any future surplus revenue to pay them off.

Public Works.

8. With the exception of the ordinary repair of the roads and public buildings, which, with the exclusion of some of the country churches, may be pronounced to be in a satisfactory condition, there has been nothing done within the year of a character to justify its being entered under this head.

Legislation.

9. Neither under this head is there much to specify as the results of the legislative labours of a whole year. A measure for promoting the public health, and another for regulating the observance of quarantine, are, I must confess, all that can be pointed to as enactments of an original kind. For the residue, we have been for the most part content with the continuation of arrangements as severally about to be determined with the expiration of the temporary Acts under which they took effect. It is well that at an early period of the social and financial revolution, out of which it may be hoped these islands are at last emerging, Antigua took some few vigorous steps towards the improvement of her institutions, and the amendment of her laws; for it cannot be denied that few symptoms of similar energy have of late been discoverable in the proceedings of the Council or of the Assembly. Even the prevalence in an adjacent island of epidemic cholera, in a peculiar virulent form, failed in eliciting from these bodies any definitive decision on a question which was in agitation throughout the whole of the past year, involving a selection of the most eligible sites for an extra-urban cemetery for the city of St. John.

Population.

10. The only returns at present obtainable, bearing immediately on the numerical strength of the population, are those of baptisms and burials. A proposal to enforce a general registration of births and deaths failed in its passage through the Assembly at the beginning of the year. If the above-mentioned returns, which have shown on an average of the last six years an increasing ratio of deaths, as compared with baptisms, were to be exclusively

relied on, it would follow that our population is actually on the decline. But such an inference, repugnant as it would be to all analogies established in respect of races enjoying conditions of existence equally favourable with those of the negro of these islands, is incompatible with what is actually presented to the eye of a discriminating observer from every side of us. That there are not annually, as I fear must be admitted to be the case, large accessions from natural causes to the number of the labouring class, is of itself a sufficient source of concern, the origin of which is no doubt to be found in the disinclination, developed more or less according to the degree in which the peasantry are left to their own guidance, to provide medical attendance for themselves and their families. It was elicited through a late inquiry, conducted with some care by the Board of Health, into the hygenic state of the island, that of the whole labouring population, amounting probably to about 31,000, not more than 8,056 are provided either by themselves or their employers with regular medical aid. Of the 160 estates still in a state of either complete or partial cultivation, on 79 only is such aid now found as an article in the contract between the master and servant. Before emancipation, the yearly cost under this head for the whole island, embracing, as at that time it probably did, about 200 estates, amounted, according to the lowest estimate, to 5,300*l.*

11. A further enhancement of the general rate of mortality may safely be asserted to have been the result of the predilection which of late years the peasantry have manifested for the crowded and ill-ventilated "free villages" as residences in preference to the cottages scattered at large over the several estates which had previously been their homes. However sound may have been the principles which, in connexion with the then existing state of public sentiment, presided over the original establishment of these "free villages,"—the number of which has now risen to 86,—their increase has been probably detrimental to the general health at least of the island.

Miscellaneous Numerical Returns.

12. It will be observed that the amount returned as the deposit in the savings bank (2,283*l.* 2*s.*) if spread over the whole population (37,136) would give a proportional sum for each poll of 1*s.* 2¾*d.*; and that the number of persons enrolled as members of friendly societies bears to the same total of population the centesimal proportion of 17·7.

Education.

13. The whole number of children attending the day schools of all denominations, including that of the Mico Charity, is 2,989, giving on the population 8·04 per cent. This proportion is not by any means a satisfactory one. It may be said, however, that of late there has been a tendency towards an increase of it.

14. The training school known as "Cedar Hall," supported by the United Brethren for the purpose of supplying this and the neighbouring islands with native teachers, continues to bid fair to fulfil its object. Being yet little more than in its infancy more than this cannot at present be safely said of it. The boys, about twenty-five in number, besides being clothed by the mission, are boarded and lodged on the premises, which are commodious. The healthy principle of combining with indoor study manual labour at stated intervals in the open air is not lost sight of in the arrangements of this meritorious little establishment.

15. It were much to be wished for a community of the social conditions of ours that a general scheme for managing all these schools by means of some central authority should be adopted, and opportunities for urging such a plan on the Council and Assembly have been made available, but financial considerations, not unallied probably with certain sectarian jealousies, have hitherto stood in the way of such a step. Under the provisions of a local Act of old standing the United Brethren alone are in the receipt of a yearly allowance of 133*l.* 6*s.* 8*d.* for educational purposes.

ANTIGUA

Imports and Exports.

16. The returns under both these heads, as compared with the corresponding ones of the previous year, are, as expressed in values, eminently satisfactory :—

	Imports.	Exports.
1853 - -	£140,097 8 11	- - 195,686 18 0
1854 - -	171,076 7 0	- - 215,700 10 0
	Increase, £30,978 18 1	Increase, 20,013 12 0

This test of reported value must in a great degree—more especially as regards a statement made from hence referring to exports—be a conjectural one ; but the above-cited figures are supported by the return of the packages of sugar and molasses actually shipped, rendered, according to the usual mode of calculation, into their equivalent weights, which gives for 1854, 12,012 tons, the same calculation having given for 1853, 11,943.

17. The distillation of rum had not been a matter to which the planters of this island had of late years given much of their attention up to the period towards the close of 1854, when a sudden demand for this article occurred.

18. During the last year some shipments on a small scale—principally from Barbuda—were made to the United Kingdom of prepared vegetable fibres, opening the way, it can scarcely be doubted, for a trade in what is destined in no distant day to be classed among the staple products of these islands.

Agriculture, &c.

19. There appears to me nothing to remark as to the first of these heads, unless it be to note the continuance of the finished cultivation which delights the eye of the beholder from any of the eminences which are scattered throughout the island. The number of small holdings on which the peasantry grow canes, to be ground on mutually accommodating terms at some neighbouring mill, is on the increase. Arrangements have even been made in one or two instances in the course of the past year for the cultivation of large portions—if not the whole—of an estate on the share system.

20. Almost the whole of the sugar produced in Antigua is of that quality which finds its way to the refineries at home. This fact, in conjunction with the comparatively small size of the estates in this island, has occasioned less capital to be expended in the evaporating appliances connected with the manufacture of the staple crop than has been the case in the larger dependencies of the Crown in these seas. A machine for drying the crystals on the centrifugal principle, which a few years ago obtained much favour in the eyes of the planters, has again fallen into disuse for the same reason, it having appeared that the loss of weight consequent on the drying process was not compensated, in regard to the total return, by the additional quantity of the molasses which had been extracted. Two cases may be noted in which some of the latest improvements in machinery have been adapted to cane mills, but in both were the interested parties opulent absentees.

Gaol, Prisoners, &c.

21. It does not appear from the gaol returns that there is any considerable increase of crime, taken collectively, during the past year in comparison with the preceding one. Some of the offences, however, (in respect of which two instances of capital convictions might be specified,) were of a more aggravated character than is usually found among our population. The convictions for obeah, I regret to have to remark, are decidedly on the increase, in spite of the enhanced punishment, including whipping, which by a late law has been awarded to this crime. I much fear that the only effect of the enactment in question has been to throw round the practice of this art a seeming mystery, and to recognise in it an importance which plays into the hands of the rogues who are engaged in it ; and I am glad to perceive that an inclination is astir to review the policy of its provisions.

Charitable Institutions.

22. The existing Charitable Institutions have not heretofore been conducted on any very accurately defined principles. In the year 1828 certain charitably-

disposed parties associated themselves under the name of the "Daily Meal Society," for the purpose, as the name implies, of relieving cases of urgent casual distress. To the premises of the society were subsequently consigned, at the expense of the parish on which they were chargeable, all who were treated as indoor paupers, and it subsequently undertook, in addition, in a separate building, the somewhat incongruous charge of all persons affected with leprosy. As long as money was plentiful and voluntary subscribers numerous, it perhaps did not much matter through what channel their relief found its way to its objects; but with the impaired resources of individuals came calls upon the Legislature for pecuniary aid to an extent which, as for the last year, has largely exceeded the amount of private subscriptions. On the establishment, in 1852, of a poor-house for the use of the whole island, all the indoor paupers were gradually removed to it by the newly-appointed guardians of the poor from the society's infirmary; and towards the end of the last year an intimation was given to the managing committee of the latter that a similar step would be taken in regard to the paupers under medical treatment who had been allowed in the interval to continue in it. The withdrawal from the infirmary of this latter class has, at the date at which I am writing, actually taken place; and a further arrangement has been propounded, and will I have no doubt be carried into effect, for transferring the charge of the lazaretto also to the guardians. These changes bid fair, I think, to form a manifest improvement in the administration of each establishment. The charges which by their nature are proper to be borne by the community will then be disbursed by a public board, while the collective charity of individuals will find an appropriate rallying point in the principle of voluntary beneficence, which, it is hoped, will meet all the wants of the infirmary.

23. There is also in the city of St. John an asylum, managed for the most part by ladies who are members of the Wesleyan Methodist Connexion, and supported by voluntary contributions, for the maintenance and education of female orphans, to the number of about twelve.

24. During the course of the last year all that remained of the establishments which had before been maintained here at the expense of the Imperial Treasury—the detachment of Her Majesty's troops furnishing the garrison, the functions of the Comptroller of the Imperial Customs, and those also of the single stipendiary justice, has been withdrawn, and the island may in strictness now be said for the first time to be left in pursuing its future career to its own unaided resources. Up to the present time, owing to the large proportion of property which is still in the hands of the old island families resident within the United Kingdom, but exercising through their agents preponderating influence in our local councils, Antigua has probably undergone less change in her social and economical circumstances than any other island of the Caribbean group. Nor, while the existing somewhat complicated and cumbrous machinery for the government of this small community, by the operation of which the Council and Assembly are in their deliberations mutually isolated, and are both detached from all immediately directing influence on the part of the executive officer, shall exist, does it seem likely that she will, for at least some time to come, accommodate herself with much readiness to the reduced fortunes which have come upon the West Indies generally. In the meantime she has a soil the fertility of which it is not apparently within the power of any shortcomings of man to injure, legislative bodies abundantly satisfied with their own convictions of her interests, and a thriving and contented population.

I have, &c.
(Signed) R. J. MACKINTOSH.

The Right Hon. Lord John Russell,
&c. &c. &c.

MONTSERRAT.

MONTSERRAT.

No. 18.

No. 18.

Copy of a DESPATCH from Governor General MACKINTOSH to Lord JOHN RUSSELL.

(No. 34.)

Leeward Islands, Antigua,
May 22, 1855.
(Received June 16, 1855.)

MY LORD,

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship, in duplicate, the "Blue Book" of Montserrat for the year 1854, together with a copy of the Despatch in which it has been forwarded to me by the late President administering the government.

The fulness of this paper, especially in regard to the present financial condition of the island, appears to me to dispense with the necessity on my part of any additional remark.

The proposal which (paragraph 17) Mr. Robinson has propounded for the relief of the planting interest, that a terminable annuity based on the principle of those granted under the provisions of the Drainage Acts of the United Kingdom, liquidating at a given uniform amount simultaneously the capital and interest of the Earthquake Loan, should be substituted for the arrangement for its repayment which has lately been sanctioned by the Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury, has been already, as I need perhaps scarcely remind your Lordship, brought under the notice of Her Majesty's Government in my Despatch, Antigua, No. 13, of 12th February 1853. Of this fact, Mr. Robinson was doubtless unaware when he penned his own recommendation. It would, of course, be to myself a source of only enhanced satisfaction to learn that their Lordships had been induced by the present account of the meritorious struggle which is going on in Montserrat with adverse circumstances to consent to the further relief of the planters which has been suggested on the present occasion.

No. 27. Oct. 10, 1854.

I have, &c.
(Signed) R. J. MACKINTOSH.

The Right Hon. Lord John Russell,
&c. &c. &c.

No. 18.

No. 18.

Copy of a DESPATCH from Mr. President ROBINSON to Governor General MACKINTOSH.

(No. 17.)

SIR,

Montserrat, February 27, 1855.

Blu
In Duplicate.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith to your Excellency the "Blue Book" of Montserrat for the year 1854, prepared in duplicate, and I will now proceed to offer such explanatory observations thereon as appears to me to be essentially necessary for arriving at a more clear and accurate comprehension of the general condition and prospects of this colony than can, I conceive, be obtained from a simple perusal of the schedules comprised in this return.

2. It has invariably been the custom here, in compiling the return for the "Blue Book" of the abstract of the "Net Revenue and Expenditure" for each year, to insert under the head of "Expenditure" only such payments as have been actually made out of the Public Treasury during that period. And it appears to have been considered essential in the preparation of these returns, that the excess of revenue over expenditure, as shown at the close of the abstract, should always correspond with the exact cash balance in the public chest on the last day of each year; and it is not clear to me that the treasurer, upon whom devolves the duty of preparing these returns, can take cognizance of debts of which he is in no way officially acquainted, or enter under the head of "Expenditure" any items but such as appears by his books to have been paid during the period under review; but it will be obvious, in a colony such as Montserrat, which for a number of years has always been in debt,—where the salaries of the public officers, and the expenses incurred for the support of the public institutions, are frequently in arrear for nine and twelve months, and often

for a far longer period,—where taxes are imposed, not in anticipation, but after the liabilities have actually accrued,—that such a return as the one contained in the Blue Book becomes little more than a statement of the receipts and disbursements in the treasurer's office, and can give but a very imperfect idea as to the actual financial condition of the colony, or the cost incurred during the year for the fixed establishment and the support of the public institutions. Thus, for example, it would appear from an examination of the Montserrat Blue Book for 1853, that the revenue of that year exceeded the expenditure, and that a balance of 598*l.* 4*s.* 2¼*d.* existed to the credit of the island on the 31st December 1853; whereas, on the contrary, as will be seem by the following statement, the real financial condition of the colony at that date was such that the year 1854 commenced with liabilities unprovided for to the amount of 852*l.* 6*s.* 0½*d.* sterling.

LIABILITIES on the 31st December 1853.

Dr.	£	s.	d.
Amount due to public officer's salaries to 31st December 1853	343	13	0
Amount due to public institutions, such as jail, poor lunatics, to 31st December 1853 - - -	26	17	0
Amount due for incidental and miscellaneous services to 31st December 1853 - -	33	10	0
Arrears of interest on "Earthquake Loan" due to Her Majesty's Government for the year ended 1st August 1853 -	1,047	10	3
Total liabilities on 31st December 1853 - - - -	1,450	10	3

ASSETS on the 31st December 1853.

Cr.	£	s.	d.
Cash in public chest on 31st December 1853 - -	598	4	2½
Arrears of revenue uncollected and in course of collection on 31st December 1853 - -	Nil.		
Total assets - -	598	4	2½
Excess of liabilities over assets on 31st December 1853 -	852	6	0½
	1,450	10	3

3. With the view, therefore, of explaining more precisely the financial condition of the colony during and at the close of the past year, I have caused to be inserted in the Blue Book, now transmitted, at the conclusion of the abstract of "Net Revenue and Expenditure," an account setting forth the assets and liabilities on 31st December 1854. This statement exhibits the following results.

LIABILITIES on the 31st December 1854.

Dr.	£	s.	d.
Amount due to public officers to 31st December 1854, being six months' salaries - -	663	13	6
Amount due for support of public institutions to 31st December 1854 (since paid in full) -	146	6	3
Amount due for miscellaneous and incidental expenses to 31st December 1854 (since paid) - - -	89	12	10
Total liabilities to 31st December 1854 - - -	899	12	7

ASSETS on the 31st December 1854.

Cr.	£	s.	d.
Amount of cash in public chest on 31st December 1854 -	111	11	5
Amount of arrears of revenue in hands of Provost Marshal for collection (since recovered) -	116	13	7½
Amount in hands of Local Boards - - -	56	7	7
Total assets - -	284	12	7½
Excess of liabilities over assets	614	19	11½
	899	12	7

While, therefore, a comparison of the abstract of revenue and expenditure in the Blue Books for 1853 and 1854 would lead to the conclusion that the finances of the colony, at the close of the former year, were in a better condition by nearly 500*l.* sterling than at the termination of the past year, the reverse is really the case, as will be seen by the foregoing statements; from which it appears that the liabilities unprovided for on the 31st December 1853 were 852*l.* 6*s.* 0½*d.*, while the liabilities unprovided for on the 31st December 1854 amounted but to 614*l.* 19*s.* 11½*d.*, showing an improvement in favour of

MONTSERRAT.

1854 of 237*l.* 6*s.* 1*d.* And when it is borne in mind that this result has been achieved whilst several taxes which were in force for part of the year 1853 have been abolished, and the property tax levied in 1854 diminished by 25 per cent., as compared with a similar impost raised in 1853 and that, notwithstanding these reduced sources of income, the colony has not only paid off all arrears of interest due to Her Majesty's Government up to the last gale day for the earthquake loan, but has also reduced the debt by the payment of the first instalment of one twentieth of the principal of the loan, it must be admitted that although the financial condition of the island is not wholly satisfactory, still as compared with previous years there are happily many encouraging circumstances which afford grounds for congratulation and thankfulness.

Revenue and Expenditure.

4. The decrease in the revenue of 1854, as compared with that of 1853, amounts, according to the return in the Blue Book, to 755*l.* 10*s.* 8*d.*, being respectively 3,456*l.* 13*s.* 2½*d.*, and 2,701*l.* 2*s.* 6¼*d.*; but this is to be accounted for by the abolition of the taxes on rum and cattle, by the reduction of 25 per cent. on the property tax, and the abolition of several other small sources of revenue, and in consequence of there being arrears of revenue uncollected on the 31st December 1854, although recovered and made available within a few days from that date. I also find that in the Blue Book for 1853 the balance in hand at the commencement of that year, and several other items, were included in the account of revenue received during the year 1853, although strictly they should not have been entered in that return.

5. The expenditure by the same return appears to have been increased from 2,858*l.* 9*s.* 0½*d.* in 1853 to 3,187*l.* 15*s.* 11*d.* in 1854; but this will be explained by the fact that although there were liabilities unpaid on the 31st December 1853 amounting to 1,450*l.* there was a cash balance in the Public Treasury on that day of 598*l.*, and this sum being disbursed in 1854 swells the expenditure of that year. I could, if necessary, multiply examples as to the difficulty of arriving at any clear understanding of the financial condition of the colony from these returns, when the receipts of one year are not disbursed until the next, whilst liabilities incurred the previous year remain unpaid, and appear in the expenditure of subsequent years, and the little value which in consequence can be placed upon statistical comparisons deduced therefrom, as to the relative condition of the colony during successive years; but the defective nature of these returns must be sufficiently evident from the instances which I have already deduced; and I only allude to the subject for the purpose of explaining any apparent discrepancy between the statements in my report and the returns contained in the columns of the Blue Book.

6. It is by no means easy to arrive at any accurate information as to the exact cost of the "establishment" and public institutions separately for each of the past years, in consequence of the very imperfect and irregular manner in which the accounts of the Island Treasury were kept by the late Treasurer; the payments made having been simply entered in the Treasury books, without specifying either the services or the period during which they were performed, and the vouchers then destroyed. But a clearer insight into the transactions of the year 1854 may be gathered from the following statement, which I annex, and which has been prepared with as much accuracy as possible, considering all the circumstances, and which, omitting fractions, presents the following result:

EXPENSES.

Dr.	£	s.	d.
Liabilities on 1st January 1854	1,450	0	0
Cost of establishment and contingent expenses for 1854 -	2,153	0	0
Interest for nine months, and first instalment of public debt	471	0	0
	4,074	0	0

RECEIPTS.

Cr.	£	s.	d.
Cash in Treasury on 1st January 1854 - -	598	0	0
Revenue collected during year 1854 - - - -	2,701	0	0
Revenue outstanding - -	161	0	0
	3,460	0	0
Liabilities unprovided for on 31st December 1854 - -	614	0	0
	4,074	0	0

The cost of establishment and contingent and miscellaneous expenses for the past year have been considerably lower than on any previous year, in consequence of the abolition of some offices, the amalgamation of others at reduced salaries, and a general reduction in the expenditure of the public institutions effected by increased economy.

Imports and Exports.

7. There is a diminution in the estimated value of imports, as compared with that of 1853, amounting to 1,550*l.*, chiefly attributable to the outbreak of cholera in the islands of Barbadoes and St. Kitt's, from whence the supplies for this colony are chiefly derived; large cargoes shipped from England for Montserrat viâ these islands were detained by quarantine regulations many months in the ports of Bridgetown and Basseterre, and did not arrive here until after the commencement of the present year. This decrease, however, is more than compensated for by the large increase in the estimated value of the exports, amounting to 4,832*l.*, being an increase of fifty per cent. upon the estimated value of exports in the year 1853. The total value of imports and exports for 1854 stands respectively at 8,963*l.* 12*s.* 7*d.* and 14,515*l.* 13*s.* leaving a balance in favour of the latter of 5,525*l.* 0*s.* 5*d.*

8. The revenue derived from the duties on imports and exports combined exceeds the amount collected from the same sources in 1853 by 100*l.* 8*s.* 8¾*d.*, the account being as follows:

1853.	£	s.	d.	1854.	£	s.	d.
Import duty - - -	1,158	18	2½	Import duty - - -	1,011	14	1
Export duty - - -	306	19	11	Export duty - - -	554	12	9
Totals - -	1,465	18	1¼	Total - -	1,566	6	10

9. The increase in the export duty of 1854, as compared with 1853, of nearly 100 per cent., being a specific charge upon the bulk, will exhibit the remarkable improvement in our sugar crop for the past year, even more strongly than the increase in the estimated value of the exports for 1854, which, in consequence of the fall in the price of produce, exceeds the estimated value of the exports of the previous year by only 50 per cent., while the quantity exported was nearly doubled. I annex a statement of the amount of sugar, molasses, and rum exported during the past ten years, which will exhibit the rapid stride which this colony has taken during the past year; and I am happy to state that the prospect of the crop for the present year leads me to anticipate that, under the Divine blessing, the result will be even still more favourable.

EXPORTS.

Years.	Sugar estimated in Hogsheads.	Molasses in Puncheons.	Rum in Puncheons.
1845	748	316	36
1846	573	380	10
1847	971	527	76
1848	532	126	11
1849	746	336	36
1850	362	119	24
1851	868	434	44
1852	731	261	36
1853	526	165	12
1854	983	367	97

MONTSERRAT.

Agriculture.

10. The enumeration of these articles of production leads naturally to a consideration of the condition and prospects of agriculture in this colony. I am happy to be enabled to report that, notwithstanding the great difficulties with which the planters have to contend, there is a decided improvement in the cultivation of the sugar estates, and consequently a considerable increase of the article. There is also a greater breadth of land under cultivation at this moment than there has been since the year 1844. Nine tenths of the estates in the island have changed hands within the last few years; formerly, and indeed until very lately, the entire island was owned by absentee proprietors; there are at present, I believe, but two of that class, and the new and far more numerous class of small resident proprietors, although unfortunately not possessed of as great an amount of capital as might be desired, are endeavouring, now that the hope of protection has vanished for ever, to compensate for its loss by greater economy of labour, and a larger application of science and skill to the cultivation and manufacture of their produce; but it is needless to underrate the vast difficulties with which they have to contend, and I cannot feel very sanguine as to their ultimate success, unless great reductions are effected in the "establishment" of the island, and local taxation is in consequence diminished. I believe I may confidently assert that in no part of Her Majesty's dominions are the charges upon land so heavy in proportion to the extent and capabilities of its resources, as in Montserrat. All taxation here, whether direct or indirect, must be borne by the owners or occupiers of the soil; there is no other class or trade or manufacture upon whom taxation can be imposed, and the direct taxation alone upon estates collected under the heads of "export duty" and "property tax" amounts to 33 per cent. upon the letting value; thus, for example, an estate let for 150*l.* per annum pays 50*l.* sterling per annum in direct taxation, in addition to heavy import duty of nearly 25 per cent. upon all the necessaries of life, and all plantation stores and machinery, together with the interest upon the earthquake loan. I annex in the Appendix to this Report Return No. 1, which will exemplify this more fully.

No. 1, in Appendix.

11. I also annex a return, No. 2, in Appendix, which will exhibit still more startling results. It will appear from this return that the taxation raised in 1853 amounted to the sum of 3,250*l.*, and that the amount levied in 1853 from the private borrowers by the Loan Commissioners for interest upon 15,000*l.* amounted to 750*l.*, being a total raised in the island by taxation of 4,000*l.*, while the gross amount realized by the island for the sale of its produce, after deducting freight, commission, and other expenses in England, did not exceed 6,500*l.*, leaving but 2,500*l.* to defray the labour and cost of production; nor have I reason to believe that the year 1853 varies much from several previous years. It is clear, therefore, that the sugar estates, except, perhaps, in one or wo individual cases which were free from debt, were all worked at a loss, and that sooner or later such a state of things must come to an end. The year 1854, the most favourable the island has experienced for ten years, presents not quite so hopeless a result, in consequence of the decrease in the direct taxation, and the increase of the sugar crop. The amount raised in 1854 by taxation amounted to - - - - £2,800 0 0

No. 2, in Appendix.

Ditto, by Loan Commissioners from private borrowers for interest upon 15,000*l.*, and first instalment of principal of debt - - - - 1,200 0 0

Total - - £4,000 0 0

While the sum realized by sale of produce and exports for the year 1854, after deducting charges in England, amounts to about 11,000*l.*, leaving 7,000*l.* to pay labour and cost of production. And when it is considered that in the item of sugar alone the island shipped nearly 1,000 hogsheads, the cost of producing which is generally estimated at 10*s.* per cwt., or 8*l.* per hogshead, it would appear that even this year the crop was raised at a loss.

12. The question will naturally arise, why, under these circumstances, the estates have remained in cultivation, and the growth of sugar been continued; but I think this can be explained by the fact that the present proprietors have

suffered but little as yet; nearly one half of the present class have been in possession of the estates for only one year; few exceed two years. The old class of absentee proprietors, and those who received, and, I fear, misapplied the Earthquake Loan, have all been ruined and sold out. I believe but two of the original borrowers remain in possession of land in the island. The estates have generally been sold for taxes, and have rarely ever produced more than sufficient to pay the loan, whilst several sold last year under an Encumbered Estates Act, produced but 14 per cent. of the sum advanced, and the balance was added to the public debt of the colony. The new proprietors, therefore, having obtained their estates for very small sums are now fairly and honestly endeavouring to solve the question, which a few years must now decide, as to whether, by improved cultivation, greater application, and increased economy, this island can continue in cultivation; but until the amount levied each year by taxation bears a smaller proportion to the sum realized by the sale of the produce, I confess I cannot feel sanguine as to the establishment of any permanent or material prosperity. This colony must, I conceive, look exclusively to the present class of yeomen proprietors to extricate it from its difficulties, if indeed that result can be achieved at all. It is needless to expect, burdened as the land is with debt and local charges, that capitalists will ever be induced to establish themselves here while so many better opportunities offer themselves for the application of capital elsewhere, and it is only the low price of land and the low rate of wages that exist here, which have induced the present proprietors, many of whom come from Barbadoes, to seek that field here for the application of their skill, labour, and very limited capital, which, in consequence of the high price of land and the amount of capital brought to bear upon the cultivation and manufacture of its produce, was denied to them elsewhere.

13. I hope I shall not be considered presumptuous, considering my short experience of but twelve months here, if I venture to express the conviction which many years practical acquaintance with land and farming pursuits in the mother country has enabled me to form, viz., that although the profits from the production of sugar may never again equal those of past years, or support in opulence an absentee proprietary, still, to an unencumbered, resident, working proprietor, who is not overwhelmed by local taxation, the profits even at the present prices—taking, of course, into calculation the amount of capital invested—are equal to, if not greater than those derived from any description of farming at home with which I am acquainted. I refer, of course, to the result of farming at home previous to the rise which I am informed has taken place in the price of all farming produce since the close of 1853; and were it not for the overwhelming local taxation, I conceive that this beautiful little island, from the extraordinary fertility of its soil, the favourable nature of its climate, the absence of those protracted draughts which have proved so injurious to neighbouring islands, and from the comparative abundance of labour at a low rate of wages, could successfully compete with almost any sugar-growing colony in these seas.

14. I have earnestly endeavoured to urge the consideration of these views upon all those who are interested in the welfare and prosperity of this island, and to impress upon the planters that it is to a reduction of local taxation they must now look for any permanent relief from the difficulties which surround them; nor have I allowed any opportunity to pass without endeavouring to give effect, as far as lay in my power, to such a policy. Upon the resignation of the late Treasurer in November last, the offices of Colonial Secretary and Treasurer were combined, whereby a saving of nearly 100*l.* per annum was effected. Upon the suspension of the puisne justice in December last, the duties of that office were undertaken by the stipendiary justice without any salary, by which means, provided such an arrangement be confirmed, a further retrenchment of 100*l.* will be effected. I am at this moment endeavouring to induce the Legislature to consent to an abolition of two out of the three Loan Commissioners, and I have, during the past year, invariably refused to accord the executive assent to votes of public money as gratuities to private individuals, such as formed a considerable item in the expenditure of former years. There are several other offices which may be designated as sinecures, and which, as they become vacant, might be abolished with advantage; but I doubt whether anything short of a complete alteration of the system of taxation will ever effect a sufficient reduction to produce any very material result.

MONTSERRAT.

The revenue last year of 2,701*l.* was raised in five distinct modes, viz.: import duties, export duties, tonnage duties, property tax, and liquor licences. I conceive that the necessary revenue might be raised by two simple and inexpensive means, viz., a direct property tax upon all houses and lands, and by trade licences. The taxation would be borne by the same classes as at present, but from the simplicity of the process and the abolition of imports and exports, and consequently of the staff connected with the collection of these and the other various duties, the expenditure of the island might be reduced by nearly one half. It is unnecessary, however, to dwell further upon the details of such a scheme, as I fear that any measure for effecting such a change would meet with the strenuous opposition of the House of Assembly, constituted as that branch of the Legislature is at present; besides in a small community such as this, vested interests and established usages concur so strongly that when any general reduction or improvement is attempted, the crippled finances and cloud of compensations to be afforded scare away all change.

Debt.

16. Frequent allusion having been made during the progress of this report to the " Earthquake Loan," a brief explanatory statement upon the subject may not be out of place.

17. The amount advanced to this colony by Her Majesty's Government in the years 1844 and 1846, to repair the damages caused by the earthquake of 1843, amounted to 23,000*l.*, 3,500*l.* of which sum was appropriated by the island for the repairs of public buildings, the salaries of the commissioners, and the expenses connected with the distribution of the loan, and 19,500*l.* distributed amongst the private borrowers. Since that time, however, several estates have been sold under an Encumbered Estates Act, and having produced but 14 per cent. upon the amount originally advanced upon them, the balance of the debt fell upon the public. The proportion in which the loan is at present borne by the public and by private borrowers, omitting fractions, is as follows:

Public debt - - - -	£ 8,000
Due by private borrowers - - -	15,000
	£23,000

Interest at the rate of 3¼ per cent. upon the principal outstanding, and instalments of principal at the rate of 5 per cent. upon the original loan, will continue to become due on the first day of May for each of the next nineteen years; at present the yearly payments amount to 1,897*l.* 10*s.*, being 8¼ per cent. upon 23,000*l.*, but this sum will be reduced each year by the interest on the instalment repaid the previous year. It cannot, however, be denied that under the present circumstances of the colony this amount is raised with considerable sacrifice and great difficulty, and that the island during the past year has made a most gallant struggle. On the 1st January 1854, the arrears of interest due to Her Majesty's Government, up to the previous 1st August 1853, amounted to 1,047*l.* The entire of this arrear has been paid up, in addition to the nine months' interest accrued due the 1st of May last, together with the first instalment of principal, amounting altogether to 2,757*l.*, and for the first time since the year 1846 the island is not in arrear for interest due to Her Majesty's Government; but there is a point beyond which burdens cannot wisely be imposed, and I would respectfully submit to your Excellency, that there never was a period in the history of Montserrat where the strenuous exertions by which all classes of proprietors in the island are endeavouring to extricate themselves from the difficulties with which the apathy and extravagance of their predecessors have surrounded them were more entitled to consideration, or when the colony was in such a critical condition that a little forbearance would be more likely to produce good results. I would not propose any extension of the time for repayment, or the remission of any portion of a debt so grossly misapplied; but I would venture to suggest, that the same terms might be granted to this island that Her Majesty's Government have, I believe, granted to Irish proprietors in reference to the repayment of sums advanced under the " Land Improvement Act, Ireland," which, I believe, provides for the repayment of the

principal and interest of the sum advanced by the yearly payment of 6¼ per cent. for twenty-one years. Such a boon, if accorded to Montserrat, would prove an incalculable relief at the present moment. Nor can it, I conceive, be urged with fairness in opposition to such a proposition that it would deal unfairly with posterity; the present proprietors merely ask that their successors should contribute in the same proportion with them towards the repayment of a sum from the expenditure of which neither have derived any benefit, and the doubt must naturally suggest itself to every thinking mind, whether, if some relief in this or some other shape be not afforded to a community, upon whom the taxation, during the most favourable season they have experienced for years, has amounted to 36 per cent. upon the gross amount realized by the sale of their produce, there will remain any property for posterity to share.

Education.

18. No assistance is afforded by the colony to the schools throughout the island; there are eight free schools in connexion with the Church of England, containing 583 scholars. The teachers, nine in number, are paid from funds placed at the disposal of the bishop of the diocese by the Government, and by the "Christian Faith Society," the whole expenditure being 121*l.*, of which sum the society contributes 70*l.* The children are carefully instructed in reading, their religious training being the object chiefly desired; but in five of the schools they are taught writing and arithmetic, the parents furnishing materials for these purposes. A yearly examination is made, and having been present at the last, I am enabled from my own knowledge to bear testimony to the intelligence, quickness, and remarkable facility of acquiring knowledge exhibited by all the scholars upon that occasion. The Rev. Mr. Todd, under whose superintendence these schools are placed, states in the yearly report which he has made to me upon this interesting subject, "I have much pleasure "in being able to state that, for the last three years, I have observed marked "improvement of the children in secular and religious knowledge; they are "particularly remarkable for the quickness and precision with which they "commit any instruction to memory. I regret to be obliged to inform "your Honour that from information received from the bishop, under date "1st January, I am led to infer that the salaries of the teachers paid from the "Government fund will be immediately withdrawn. I do not think the parents "are altogether able or willing to pay for the education of their children. I "must therefore rely upon the Legislature for assistance to maintain these "schools, or at the close of the present quarter I fear I shall be compelled "to close them."

19. I earnestly recommended the Legislature on my arrival here in April last to give to this all-important subject the attentive consideration which it demands, to which they promised an early compliance, and although they have not as yet done so, I fervently hope that nothing may interfere with the continuance of institutions which have proved so successful, and which are already producing such beneficial results.

20. There are, in addition to the foregoing eight schools I have mentioned, three free day-schools in connexion with the Wesleyan Missionary Association, containing 171 scholars, and supported altogether from the funds of the Wesleyan Society at a cost of 66*l.* 8*s.* per annum, and I am happy to be enabled to report equally favourably as to the progress and acquirements of the attendants at these schools.

21. The Rev. S. Smith, the Wesleyan missionary, under whose control these schools are placed, has transmitted to me a most gratifying report as to their progress, in which he observes, "I beg to make the following statements— "1st. That the Wesleyan mission schools in this island continue to serve the "great purpose for which they were instituted, affording as they do religious "and secular instruction to hundreds of children, chiefly of the poor and "labouring classes. 2d. That the children who attend these schools do in "general make such progress in the acquisition of useful knowledge as may "reasonably be expected. In the town day-school several have during the "year made pleasing advances in English grammar and geography, while in "all the schools the children whose attendance has been regular, have in the "several departments of reading, writing, and arithmetic, and scriptural know-

MONTSERRAT.

" ledge, made suitable progress. 3rd. That the number of children under in-
" struction in the several Sabbath and day schools was larger at the end of
" the year just closed than at the commencement, and that the number
" continues to increase."

Crime—Gaol, &c.

22. It is gratifying to be enabled to report, that although there is not one policeman in the island, nor a civil force of any description, that tranquillity, good order, and willing obedience to the laws prevail generally throughout this little community. For a series of years there has not been any commission of crime of an aggravated nature; during the past year there have only been six indictable offences on which convictions have been obtained, nor have these cases been attended with any serious features. There has been an increase of minor offences during 1854, as compared with 1853; the prevailing offences in which the increase mainly lies is in abusive and provoking language tending to a breach of the peace, and in riotous and noisy behaviour. The provisions of the law and the system of gaol discipline in these respects appear not to be sufficiently stringent to restrain or punish such improprieties; the law only authorizes the infliction of a fine, and in default of payment incarceration in gaol simply. An amendment might be beneficially made to enable the justices of the peace to attach hard labour, but even this would be insufficient at present; for when prisoners are sentenced to hard labour, they can only be put, if males, out of the walls, to keep the streets clean, &c., and both sexes within the prison, to keeping the premises in order, and at times in breaking a small quantity of stones. A due quantity of labour each per day should be enforced so as to make a sentence to hard labour a matter of serious reality, and not as at present of little more than form; then, and only then, a committal would be a terror to evil doers; at present they care little for it, sitting down idly in gaol. I trust that an amendment will be made in these particulars during the course of the present year.

23. The following is a comparative view of the number of the offences in 1854, and the annual average of the three immediately preceding years:—

Description of Offence.	For 1854.	Annual Average of the three former Years.
Felony - - -	2	5
Assaults - - -	49	48
Thefts of growing articles -	13	25
Other minor offences - -	158	103
Total of offences - -	222	181
Number of prisoners in gaol -	79	68

General Observations.

24. Although on the whole the present retrospect does not, I fear, exhibit many features of substantial or permanent prosperity, yet the year 1854 may fearlessly challenge a comparison with any of the preceding years: the revenue derived from exports and imports has increased; the expenditure has diminished; all outstanding arrears due to Her Majesty's Government have been paid off; the debt has been reduced by the payment of one twentieth of the principal of the loan; a larger crop has been raised than any for the last ten years; the cultivation of the estates has improved; the spirit of self reliance and self exertion which exists appears ready to encounter and determined to overcome all difficulties; the labouring population are orderly, contented, and possessed of considerable wealth in the shape of stock; they are also in the full enjoy-

ment of all the necessaries, and many of—what at least are considered by them to be—the luxuries of life. The violent opposition, apparently determined to oppose every measure emanating from the executive, with which I was encountered upon the very moment of my arrival, has very sensibly diminished, and I have no doubt will very shortly cease to exist. The ill feelings and dissensions produced by the petty private jealousies and feuds by which I found the principal families in this island divided upon my assumption of this government in April last, have, I rejoice to state, in a great measure subsided, and comparative good will and harmony prevail generally among the members of this little community.

25. Such is the pleasing, and I believe unexaggerated picture which I am enabled to draw of the condition and comparative improvement and progress of this colony during the past year, and which presents abundant grounds for hopefulness and gratitude; but if in any one particular more than another there is reason for devout thankfulness, it is to be found in the fact that while the horrors of pestilence have raged around, more than decimating the population of several of the neighbouring colonies, within sight even of these shores, the dreadful calamity has not been permitted to visit this island.

I have, &c.

(Signed) H. R. ROBINSON,

President.

Governor Mackintosh,
&c. &c.

Enclosure 1. in No. 18.

RETURN showing the DIRECT TAXATION on SUGAR ESTATE in this ISLAND.

Encl. 1. in No. 18.

Name of Estate.	Value in Levy Bill.	Yearly Rental or estimated Annual Value.	Estimate of Export Duty paid last Year.	Property Tax at One per Cent.	Total Direct Taxation.	Remarks.
	£	£	£ s. d.	£	£ s. d.	
Gages - -	3,110	250	17 10 0	31	48 10 0	Under-lease.
Sym's and Lees -	3,996	120	12 10 0	40	52 10 0	Ditto.
Webbs - -	3,352	150	30 0 0	33	63 0 0	Ditto.
Dagnams - -	5,000	250	35 0 0	50	85 0 0	—
Grove and Richmond	6,660	250	40 0 0	66	106 0 0	—
Frfyes - -	2,665	120	15 0 0	26	41 0 0	Under-lease.
Delvins - -	2,220	50	6 0 0	22	28 0 0	Ditto.
Amershams - -	3,352	150	40 0 0	33	73 0 0	Ditto.
Parsons - -	3,110	150	40 0 0	31	71 0 0	—
Brodericks - -	4,450	200	20 0 0	44	64 0 0	—
Roaches - -	5,350	200	40 0 0	53	93 0 0	—
Farrels - -	4,400	150	20 0 0	44	64 0 0	Under-lease.
Paradise - -	2,200	100	7 10 0	22	29 10 0	—
Tuitts and Bethels -	6,880	300	35 0 0	68	103 0 0	—
Farm - -	3,300	150	Nil.	33	33 0 0	—
Old Road - -	3,110	200	2 0 0	31	33 0 0	—
Waterwork -	3,110	150	Nil.	31	31 0 0	—
Reeds Hill and Spring	4,450	150	5 0 0	44	49 0 0	Under-lease.
Bransby's - -	3,110	100	9 0 0	31	40 1 0	—
Taw River - -	2,665	60		26		
Whites - - -	2,665	100	46 0 0	26	142 0 0	—
Hermitage -	4,400	200		44		
StreathamsandRyleys	3,100	150	15 0 0	31	46 0 0	—
Germans Bay -	1,552	40	Nil.	15	15 0 0	—
Valley - -	1,552	50	10 0 0	15	25 0 0	—
Old Northward -	1,000	50	6 0 0	10	16 0 0	—
Sweenys - -	330	40	2 0 0	3	5 0 0	—
Barzeys - -	2,664	50	6 0 0	26	32 0 0	—
Folly and Carrs Bay	3,352	100	6 0 0	33	39 0 0	—
Trants - - -	3,504	50	Nil.	35	35 0 0	—
Needsmust -	3,352	20	4 0 0	33	37 0 0	Under-lease.
Galways - -	3,100	75	5 0 0	31	36 0 0	—
Look-out - -	880	50	5 0 0	8	13 0 0	Under-lease.
	£					
Annual Valuation	4,225					
Direct Taxation	1,548	108,341	4,225	479 10 0	1,069	1,548 10 0	

Enclosure 2. in No. 18.

STATEMENT showing the Amount of Taxation raised during the last Ten Years, together with the Articles exported.

YEAR.	TAXATION.								EXPORTS.						Value of Exports enumerated.	REMARKS.
	Property Tax.	Imperial Duty.	Rum Tax.	Cattle Tax.	Income Tax.	Tariff Duty.	Other Sources.	Total Revenue raised.	Sugar in Hogsheads.	Rum in Puncheons.	Melasses in Puncheons.	Cattle, Number of Head.	Wood in Cords.	Staves in M.		
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£							£	
1845	649	418	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	1,472	113	2,652	748	36	316	131	Nil.	Nil.	Cannot be correctly ascertained.	The value of the Exports for the last two years has been ascertained from the prices current of the principal planters in the colony, and has been calculated as the amount realized by them, after deducting freight, commission, and other expenses in England.
1846	1,515	240	Nil.	704	Nil.	1,205	84	3,748	573	10	280	267	Nil.	Nil.		
1847	1,521	174	Nil.	737	Nil.	1,063	68	3,563	971	76	527	260	29	Nil.		
1848	330	144	259	758	Nil.	979	84	2,551	532	11	126	181	12	Nil.		
1849	345	163	347	661	—	1,264	107	2,887	746	36	336	171	Nil.	Nil.		
1850	895	185	181	505	222	1,094	89	3,171	362	24	119	282	237	Nil.		
1851	846	163	47	499	143	1,169	126	2,995	868	44	431	177	628	Nil.		
1852	1,077	219	15	372	124	1,283	106	3,196	731	36	261	127	510	Nil.		
1853	1,563	66	10	71	Nil.	1,399	141	3,250	526	12	165	168	1,032	5	6,500	
1854	1,123	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	1,566	127	2,816	983	97	367	143	437	32½	11,000	

Note.—The amount levied by the Loan Commissioners for interest, &c. on Earthquake Loan from the private borrowers is not included in the above return of taxation; it amounted in 1853 to 750*l.*, and in 1854 to 1,200.

ST. KITTS.

No. 20.

ST. KITTS.
No. 20.

Copy of a DESPATCH from Governor General Mackintosh to the Right Hon. Lord John Russell.

(No. 41.)

Leeward Islands, Antigua, May 22, 1855.

My Lord, (Received June 16, 1855.)

I have the honour to transmit to your Lordship, in duplicate, the "Blue Book" of St. Kitts for 1854, together with a copy of the Report of the Lieut.-Governor on the details which form its contents.

Apart from the immediate effects of the invasion of epidemic cholera, which has marked the year 1854 in the annals of St. Kitts, the material interest at least of the island appear to have been maintained during that period in a satisfactory manner.

I have, &c.

(Signed) R. J. MACKINTOSH.

The Right Hon. Lord John Russell,
&c. &c. &c.

In No. 20.

In No. 20.

Copy of a Despatch from Lieut.-Governor Robinson to Governor General Mackintosh.

(No. 19.)

Sir, Saint Kitts, May 5, 1855.

I have the honour to transmit to your Excellency herewith, the Blue Book of Saint Kitts, in duplicate, for the year 1854.

2. My recent assumption of the government of this island, which dates only from the 5th March last, some months subsequent to the expiration of the period to which this return refers, necessarily precludes my transmitting upon the present occasion any lengthened report, or expressing any opinion deduced from personal experience or observation as to the condition or progress of this interesting dependency during the past year. I shall therefore confine myself to a few remarks upon such subjects as present themselves to my notice, upon a a careful comparison of this return with those of previous years.

3. The year 1854 has been rendered painfully remarkable by the appearance for the first time in this hitherto peculiarly healthful island of Asiatic cholera in its most aggravated form. The epidemic broke out in the town of Basseterre upon the 1st of November last, and swept over the entire island with almost unexampled severity, carrying to their graves, in less than three months, nearly one sixth part of the population. The disease finally disappeared in January; the last death from cholera is reported to have taken place on the 31st January 1855. The Medical Inspector General, Doctor Thomas H. Cooper, arrived here shortly after the outbreak of cholera, and remained during the prevalence of the disease, actively engaged in affording all the assistance and advice in his power; shortly before his departure, this gentleman presented to my predecessor a very comprehensive and interesting statement of all the circumstances connected with this fatal visitation, a printed copy of which paper I transmit herewith in the appendix forwarded with this Report.

Population, 24,571.

Deaths, 3,920.

No. 1. in Appendix.

Doctor Cooper's Report on Cholera.

4. The total expenditure incurred in connexion with this calamity amounted to nearly 5,500*l.* sterling.

5. Upon the 1st January 1854, there was an available balance in the treasury to the credit of the colony, after taking into calculation the liabilities outstanding at that date, of nearly 5,000*l.* sterling; the whole of this surplus was absorbed chiefly by the increased expenditure already referred to, and the

ST. KITTS.

present year commenced, as will be seen from the following statement, with liabilities unprovided for to the extent of about 2,000*l.* sterling.

Liabilities on 31st December 1854.	£	s.	d.
Gross amount of liabilities on 31st December 1854, including salaries of public officers and amounts due to public institutions	3,425	0	0
About	3,425	0	0

Assets on 31st December 1854.	£	s.	d.
Balance in Treasury on 31st December 1854	1,392	3	7
Revenue outstanding	Nil.		
Totals	1,392	3	7
Excess of liabilities over assets, 31st December 1854	2,032	16	5
	3,425	0	0

6. It is a source of much satisfaction to me to be enabled to state that the whole of this debt has since been liquidated, and that all the claims upon the Treasury have been paid in full to the date of this Despatch. I confidently anticipate that the revenue will be amply sufficient to meet the expenses of the current year.

Revenue and Expenditure.

7. There is an increase in the revenue of 1854, as compared with that of 1853, amounting to 437*l.* 12*s.* 5*d.*, being respectively 14,206*l.* 16*s.* 1*d.*, and 14,644*l.* 8*s.* 6*d.* The expenditure for the same period is increased from 12,632*l.* 11*s.* to 19,994*l.* 11*s.* 5*d.*, making a difference of 7,362*l.* 0*s.* 5*d.*

8. The items of expenditure upon which there appear any considerable increase are,

1st. Police force;
2d. Medical attendance;
3d. Ecclesiastical establishment;
4th. Roads;
5th. Public works;
6th. Sanitary regulations.

The expenditure under the first head was caused by the employment of a large number of rural constables in connexion with the enforcement of rigid "quarantine regulations," previous to the outbreak of cholera; under the second head, by the appointment of medical practitioners, by virtue of Act, No. 713, entitled "An Act to provide medical attendance for the infant "children of the labouring population," passed 5th December 1853; under the item of "ecclesiastical establishment," by the payment of arrears of salary due for the previous year to the late Archdeacon, Mr. Brathwaite. The increase under the head of "roads," and "public works," was caused by the repairs of the bridges and watercourses throughout the island, by the commencement of a wharf for the landing and shipment of goods and produce, and the purchase of land for a cemetery in the vicinity of the town of Basseterre. The increased expenditure, under the item of "sanitary regulations," exceeding the increase under all the previous heads added together, was caused by the expenses consequent upon the awful visitation with which the island was afflicted.

9. The increase in the revenue, though trifling, is very gratifying, considering that it was accomplished, notwithstanding the abolition during the past year of the house tax, and the exemption from import duties of manures, coal, agricultural implements, and all machinery employed in the manufacture of sugar. Had the taxation upon these several sources of income been continued, the increase would have been very considerable. The amount lost by the relinquishment of these taxes upon improvement has, however, been more than compensated by the steady increase in the value of exports and imports, and by the consequent increase of the revenue derived from these sources.

10. The total revenue received in each of the three last years was—

In 1852	£13,265
In 1853	14,206
In 1854	14,644

ST. KITTS.

11. The value of the imports and exports for a similar period appears to have been as follows:—

	Value of Imports.	Value of Exports.
In 1852 - -	£76,680 -	£91,741
In 1853 - -	91,935 -	131,812
In 1854 - -	107,965 -	133,089

12. The comparative relation of the values of exports to imports in the above return shows a healthy state of exchange.

13. It must, however, be borne in mind when perusing these tables, that although the value of the imports can always be ascertained with tolerable accuracy, such is not the case with reference to the exports; the various fluctuations in the home market, the quality of the article, the time and place of sale, can never be estimated with any degree of certainty. The officer entrusted with the preparation of these returns can, therefore, only make a rough calculation of what he conceives to be the average price for the year, from the information afforded to him by the various merchants, and fill up the return accordingly. The assumed value of the exports, as entered in these tables, cannot therefore be considered as any indication of the condition of the island, nor do these returns exhibit, with any degree of accuracy, the relative quantity of produce raised and exported during successive years; thus, for example, it appears to me that the value placed upon produce exported in 1853, as compared with that of 1854, is greater than the ruling prices of our staples in the home markets for those periods would justify, and in consequence the value of the exports for 1854, by the foregoing return, scarcely exceeds that of 1853, while the quantity of every description of produce exported was very materially increased. The following return of the quantity of produce exported will show more clearly the great improvement which has taken place during the last three years in this important particular.

	£
1853 -	131,812.
1854 -	133,089,

EXPORTS.

Year.	Sugar estimated in Hogsheads.	Molasses in Puncheons.	Rum in Puncheons.	Salt in Barrels.
1852	5,140	1,902	723	Nil.
1853	7,053	2,793	870	Nil.
1854	7,916	3,178	1,922	24,653

Public Works.

14. The main principal highways continue to be maintained in an effective state at the expense of the general revenue of the island. A sum of nearly 1,700*l.*, in addition to the regular annual grant of 1,000*l.* sterling, fixed by statute for the repairs of the roads, was expended during the past year, under the authority of resolutions of the Legislature, in the erection and maintenance of bridges and watercourses, the building of walls, and other extraordinary expenses connected with this department.

15. A sum of 1,330*l.* was expended during the same period in the repairs of churches and public buildings, and also in the rebuilding of Fort Thomas. All the public buildings are now in good order, with the exception of the church in Basseterre, which is in a state of total dilapidation. The Legislative Houses have lately decided upon building a new church upon the site of the present ruin, and intend to raise a sufficient sum by loan, in anticipation of the revenue, for the purpose of enabling them to commence at once this very desirable object.

16. The waterworks have not progressed during the past year. The metal pipes which were purchased in 1853 at an expense of 1,000*l.* sterling, have but lately been received. I hope that this most desirable project for supplying the inhabitants of Basseterre with an abundance of pure and wholesome water, will be perfected during the present year.

ST. KITTS.

17. A wharf for the landing and shipment of goods, produce, and passengers, a luxury hitherto unknown in St. Kitts, was commenced last year, and at the time of writing, I am happy to state, is nearly completed.

18. A piece of land outside the town of Basseterre was last year purchased as a cemetery, and it is in contemplation, as soon as the revenue will permit, to surround it with a wall, and from that time all interments in the town will cease.

Population.

No. 2. in Appendix. Census Returns, 1855.

19. Appended to this Despatch is the report of the commissioners for taking the census upon the 1st January last, with analytical tables, which show the divisions of the population under various heads.

On the morning of the 1st of January last the population was found to be—

Males - - - - -	9,525
Females - - - -	11,216
Total - -	20,741

20,741
3,830
24,571
23,177
584
3,037
26,798
24,571
2,227

The most remarkable feature in this return is, that when the deaths from cholera to 31st December 1854 (3,830) are added to the above, and the numbers compared with the census taken in June 1844 (23,177), after allowing for the immigrants arrived in the colony subsequently (584), together with the excess of births over deaths for the past ten years (3,037), there appears a decrease in the population of 2,227 which cannot be accounted for, and must be attributed either to incorrectness, by over estimate in the census returns of 1844, or to emigration, but more probably the former, considering that the persons employed in the collection of those returns were paid in proportion to the number of names returned.

Immigration.

20. The subject which is now all-important, as affecting the staple productions of this colony, is that of "labour." I am informed that great difficulty was experienced by the planters last year in obtaining a sufficiency of continuous labour, and this want has been very materially increased by the loss, which has been already stated, of one sixth part of the population at the close of the past year, occasioned by the recent outbreak of cholera. At the time of writing the crop is moving off but slowly, and fears are generally expressed, by those most competent of forming a correct opinion, that a considerable portion of the present crop, which otherwise holds out fair promise of an abundant harvest, will be, if not wholly lost, at least greatly deteriorated in quality and reduced in quantity by being allowed to remain in the ground beyond the proper time.

21. The Legislature appear alive to the importance of this question, and have lately had under their consideration the means to be adopted for supplying this deficiency by immigrant labour, as it seems to be the general opinion that the only mode by which agricultural operations can in future be carried on is by a large and immediate supply of immigrants from Madeira.

22. An Act of the island has accordingly been passed within the last few weeks, having for its object "the encouragement of the immigration of agricultural "labourers," by means of bounties to be raised by a tax upon exports; but it can scarcely be anticipated that any benefit can be derived therefrom in sufficient time to assist in extricating the planters from the difficulty at present experienced by them with regard to this year's crop; and I very much doubt whether any very large measure of relief will even ultimately be obtained from an enactment by which about two hundred immigrants only can be introduced during each twelvemonths, unless indeed the importation of new hands should, as it is hoped it may, stimulate to increased energy and activity the resident labouring population of the island.

23. It is a fact beyond all dispute, that there is a sufficient number of labourers in this colony to till even a greater extent of land than that at present in cultivation; but the requirements of that class are so limited, the facilities for raising any quantity of ground provisions so great, and rest considered such a luxury, that there does not appear to exist any motive for more than the most

desultory and feeble exertion. It is obvious that every increase in the rate of wages must have the tendency of lessening the motive to labour; and I very much fear that the present difficulties have in some measure arisen from the planters not being true to each other, but endeavouring to seduce away their neighbours labourers by offers of increased wages, or other inducements in the shape of perquisites; such a short-sighted policy, rarely affording even present gain to those who pursue it, must of necessity increase the difficulty tenfold, and although my short experience scarcely justifies me in venturing to offer any opinion, I cannot but think that relief is to be found, rather in a community of interest amongst the planters themselves, and an united determination to be honest to each other and to co-operate for the general welfare, than in the small amount of immigration which can be anticipated under the provisions of the late Act.

Education.

24. I regret that I have not anything satisfactory to report under this head; since the year 1849 there has not been any grant of public money for educational purposes, There are twenty-three day schools in the island, supported entirely by school fees and voluntary contributions, at an expense of 574*l.* 0*s.* 9*d.* per annum; the number of scholars in attendance at these schools appear by the return in the Blue Book to amount to 1,947, or nearly one in twelve as compared with the population previous to the outbreak of cholera, to which period exclusively these returns refer. The following is a return of the number of attendants at the schools in connexion with each religious denomination for the last five years:—

Attendants at School in connexion with	1850.	1851.	1852.	1853.	1854.
Church of England - -	646	796	736	688	507
Wesleyan Mission - - -	776	885	883	869	909
United Brethren - - -	550	850	439	519	531
Total - - -	1,972	2,521	2,058	2,076	1,947

It will be seen by the above that there has been no material decrease in the total numbers returned as attending day schools since 1850, but these figures, at least during 1854, represent merely the number of names on the school books, scarely two thirds of whom are regular attendants. The Venerable Archdeacon Jermyn has made the following report to me upon the unsatisfactory state of the schools under his superintendence, under date 4th May 1855:—

"In reply to your Excellency's inquiry respecting the condition of the "several parish schools in this island in connexion with the Established "Church, I beg to report that having only commenced my residence here in "the autumn of last year, I can give no very accurate information as to the "internal condition of each school, but so far as I could judge of their con-"dition generally, nothing could be worse. I found existing ten schools in the "nine parishes, all of them supported by voluntary contributions, but these "contributions had for some time past been gradually falling off to such an "extent, that five out of the ten schools had to be closed at Christmas, "1854, for want of funds. I have since that date re-opened four of them, "but with no sufficient or permanent provision.

"The numbers reported as in attendance at each school I found to be in a "measure fictitious, the attendance of the children being very irregular, and "the names left on the books long after they could fairly be reckoned in "attendance, and even in many cases after they had been some time dead; "this, however, I have to a certain extent corrected in the Blue Book returns "for 1854.

ST. KITTS.

" I must not omit to mention that the class of persons employed as teachers, " both male and female, is anything but satisfactory; the salaries paid are " so small, sometimes not exceeding 5*l.* per annum, and the payment even of " these so precarious and irregular that persons of intelligence, and sufficiently " educated for the purpose, can hardly be found to undertake the office."

25. The Rev. W. T. Waymouth, Wesleyan missionary, has made a report to me of the condition of the schools in connexion with the Wesleyan mission, of which the following is an extract:

" At each of the nine stations occupied by the Wesleyan missionaries, a day " school is established for the benefit chiefly of the children of the labouring " population; the whole number on the list of both sexes at the close of 1854 " was 909; the daily attendance may be estimated at about two thirds of the " whole."

26. Still more unsatisfactory must be considered the following extracts from a letter addressed to me by the Reverend Augustus Clemens, Moravian missionary, upon the same subject:—

" I beg to state that there are four schools in connexion with the Church of " the United Brethren in this island, in charge of six teachers, and entirely " supported by voluntary contributions. These schools have been attended " during the past year, 1854, by the average number of 531 scholars, and main- " tained at the expense of 145*l.* 2*s.* 3*d.*; but we are sorry to say that our scholars " attend very irregularly, many miss once or twice a week; some attend school " one week, and go out to work the next; we hardly think that more than half " the number stated above are truly regular in their attendance at school."

27. The general decrease in the number of regular attendants must, in a great measure, I conceive, be attributed to the inefficiency of the teachers at present employed. I trust the Legislative Houses will be induced to grant, during the next session, a sum of money for educational purposes; and that when a higher rate of salary can be offered, a better class of teachers may be secured.

Crime.

No. 3. in Appendix. Return of No. of Convicts.

28. The returns under this head continue of a satisfactory character. I append a paper marked 3 in Appendix, showing the number of convicts in gaol during each of the three last years, with the nature of the crime committed by each, which shows a diminution in 1854, as compared with 1852, of more than one half the total numbers standing for the last three years, as under:—

1852 - - - -	348
1853 - - -	168
1854 - - -	173

Convicts, 170. Population, 24,571.

29. The average number of convicts for the years 1853 and 1854, being only in the ratio of 1 to 144, as compared with the population, will, I believe, contrast favourably with the amount of crime in almost every other island in these seas.

I have, &c.
(Signed) G. R. ROBINSON,
President.

To Governor General Mackintosh,
&c. &c. &c.

Appendix No. 1. in No. 20.

Dr. Cooper's Report on Cholera.

Saint Christopher, February 28, 1855.

To his Excellency Edward Hay Drummond Hay, Esquire, Lieutenant-Governor of the Leeward Islands, administering the Government of the Islands of Saint Christopher and Anguilla, Chancellor, Vice-Admiral, and Ordinary of the same, &c., &c., &c.

Sir,

Having received instructions from his Excellency Sir William Colebrooke, Governor-in-Chief of the Windward Islands, to proceed immediately to Saint Christopher, I embarked from Barbados November 27th on board the mail steamer, and arrived in this island on the morning of November 30th. By the command of your Excellency I at once assumed the duties of medical inspector general for the island, and I have since that period been engaged in the duties thus devolving upon me.

Cholera had first broken out in the early part of November. The first case publicly announced as a case of cholera appears to have been that of William Alexander Tittley, residing in New Town, and who had arrived three days before by the steamer "Conway" from England; there is, however, no doubt that five fatal cases had occurred in the town of Basseterre prior to this person being attacked by the disease; the first case on November 1st. This fact at once negatives any supposition that the epidemic had been introduced from England by the case of William Alexander Tittley, however disposed any individual might be to believe in so improbable a tale as its having been imported from the other side of the Atlantic by this person.

The strictest quarantine regulations have been kept up in this island since the first outbreak of cholera in the West Indies in 1850, and the greatest precautions taken, as far as the nature of quarantine laws permit, to prevent the importation of cholera, and with as little success against the outbreak of the disease as at Barbados, Saint Vincent, &c. The only other suggestion of any mode by which the epidemic might have been imported that has been mooted is the fact of two vessels lying in quarantine to the windward of the town of Basseterre, which arrived from Barbados. In answer to such suggestion it is sufficient to state, that no communication can be shown or is likely to have taken place between those vessels and the shore, that no case of cholera had ever appeared before or subsequently on board either of those vessels, and that no case of cholera had occurred in Bridge Town, Barbados, from whence these vessels came, or in its vicinity, for three months prior to this period.

On the other hand, in the autumn of the previous year cholera was raging in the neighbouring island of Nevis, which is only separated from Saint Christopher by a narrow channel of little better than two miles, easily traversed by open boats. Notwithstanding the strictest quarantine regulations at the time, and a more than usually strict watch on account of the proximity of Nevis, frequent communications there cannot be the slightest doubt were constantly kept up between that island and Basseterre by the people of an estate called the "Salt Ponds," who in their turn, deriving as they do all their supplies from Basseterre, were in the habit of communicating with this town almost daily. In addition to this, at the height of the outbreak in Nevis, a gentleman and his wife came over to Basseterre in defiance of the quarantine laws, and were actually fined for the offence.

Nevertheless no epidemic was imported by these communications with a place in the immediate locality.

That it is possible to keep an island free from this disease by any quarantine regulations is out of the question, and will hardly be asserted after the instances of the islands of Saint Christopher and Saint Vincent and Barbados, in all of which, above all others, no expense or trouble was spared to carry the regulations out in the strictest manner possible.

The possibility even of carrying out quarantine laws in these islands so as entirely to prevent any communication from infected ports is utterly hopeless, owing to the exposed nature of their coasts, could it be proved that cholera could be imported from such places. Those engaged in the task of attempting to enforce quarantine freely admit, not only the difficulty, but that in fact it never is done; and what I have mentioned as taking place with regard to Nevis and Saint Christopher I know is only an instance of what takes place constantly in other places.

Whilst on the one hand the quarantine laws are useless both as regard their object and their capabilities of effecting that object, the positive evil resulting from them is no doubt very great. That an island, even were it the sole property and kingdom of an independent sovereign, has a right to make any laws by which it shall prevent free intercourse with the world generally, is a doctrine which admits of much argument; but if these laws in effect operate to the serious detriment of neighbouring colonies, few will be inclined to admit such a right. There can exist no right in one place by which such place can make laws that shall rule others. Such, however, is in a temporary manner the effect of the various quarantine laws in the West Indies. For instance, in Demerara the local law imposes a quarantine of forty days; a passenger to Demerara by the English steamer, and the steamer itself, would be subject to forty days quarantine, should any person be received

ST. KITTS.

on board going from the island of Saint Christopher by such steamer to any intermediate place, say Barbados, until forty days have expired since the last case of cholera; so that although the island to which the traveller desires to proceed requires no such interval to have elapsed, the law in Demerara, in effect, is binding on him and prevents his progress, because such a law being in force in Demerara, those having charge of the steamer will not subject it or its passenger by receiving him on board to quarantine upon arrival at their destination. Thus Demerara in effect makes a law binding on Saint Christopher and Barbados. The inconvenience and loss arising in this manner in various ways is very serious, both to individuals and to commerce generally.

If upon consideration it be determined still to adhere to quarantine laws, at any rate one uniform law should prevail in the British colonies, and the shortest possible period fixed upon, to bear date from the day of leaving any infected port. At the Danish Island of Saint Thomas five days are the number required, and the modern advocates of quarantine deem this sufficient. The shorter the period, the less is the probability of any attempt to break the law, it then being scarcely worth while to run the risk of penalties from any infraction of it. Every place enforcing quarantine ought also to be compelled to have a proper lazaretto; many cases of great hardships occur by reason of an omission to have such a place provided. I have myself seen persons returning to their home refused permission to land, and obliged to proceed wherever the vessel would take them, wholly unprovided with funds to meet such a contingency; this too may and does occur often from the whim of the quarantine officer, against whose fiat under such circumstances there is, in consequence of the forced departure from the island, no appeal. In the case of females and of persons of moderate income this of itself is a cruel hardship, independent of the delay and annoyance of obtaining an opportunity of returning again from such places as they may be carried to. With persons engaged in trade the delay alone may be the source of incalculable injury; even if the vessel conveying the passenger should remain at the port imposing the quarantine, the being compelled to remain on board riding at anchor for any period is, under the most favourable circumstances, an annoyance, often in boisterous weather a dangerous position, and in some places, as at Demerara, an imprisonment in a most unhealthy locality at the mouth of the river. Every island imposing quarantine for their own supposed benefit ought in common justice at all events to provide a suitable lazaretto.

The circumstances attending the outbreak of cholera entirely negativing the idea that it arose from any foreign importation, its appearance at Saint Christopher is enveloped in the same mystery which has hitherto baffled every attempt to explain its eccentric path on the other places.

There are, however, some facts connected with the disease in its attacks on the West Indian islands worthy of record, not because they are new in the history of cholera, but on account of their furnishing us with some little clue to the nature of the epidemic.

The weather in Saint Christopher had been somewhat remarkable during the years of 1853 and 1854. There had been throughout the year 1853 a very unusual amount of rain, and vegetation had consequently been very rank. In February of 1854 the dry weather set in, and from that time until the end of September not a drop of rain fell in the valley of Basseterre, and the heat was unusually oppressive. The weather in the whole island had been so unseasonable that the present sugar crop is, in consequence, more than two months behind its ordinary period. Experience in the tropics proves that such weather is almost invariably the precursor of an outbreak of fever, especially of yellow fever, and of an unhealthy state generally. It was therefore probable that, should an epidemic appear, it would be of unusual severity, and the state of health was such as to render the inhabitants peculiarly liable to an attack of cholera. Observation in Europe has incontestably shown that in the larger cities where fevers, especially typhus and intermittent fever, periodically occur, at the time when an outbreak of this class of disease might be expected, or has broken out, cholera has appeared in those places, instead of or supplanting the more ordinary epidemic.

Although, in some measure, the well known peculiarity of cholera to attack particular spots or lines of houses has been observed, nothing so remarkable in this respect has taken place in Saint Christopher as did in the town of "Port of Spain" at Trinadad, where the houses on the east side of the streets generally were the chief seat of the disease, almost to the entire exclusion of the western side of the same street. The houses in the town of "Port of Spain" are built in regular square or oblong blocks, the streets, which are wide, running in perfectly straight lines down to the sea shore, and the cross streets intersecting them in straight lines at right angles.

Thus the back of the houses on the one side of a street are separated from the back of the houses in the next street by a wide open space or garden. The wind is constantly blowing from the east, so that the back of the houses on the east side of the street, owing to the open space intervening between them, and the houses on the west side of the next street, are exposed to the current of air coming from the east, whilst the proximity of the houses facing on the west side of the same street protect them from the wind; so much is this the case that the houses on the east side of the streets are always those the most sought after, on account of their being very considerably cooler, owing to their catching the breeze. Like as in cholera, so in yellow fever, those sleeping on one side of a hospital or large room have been attacked by the fever, whilst those on the beds on the opposite side

of the same room entirely escaped. The same law apparently prevails in this respect in both diseases. Upon investigating instances of this kind, occurring during an epidemic of yellow fever, I find a very remarkable coincidence with the facts above mentioned with respect to the "Port of Spain" during cholera, viz., that the side attacked was always the side exposed to the wind.

Numerous instances are recorded in which, when the cholera has broken out amongst the inmates of public buildings, the attack of this disease has been more than ordinarily severe; such was the case in the gaols of Barbados and Trinidad, in both of which the mortality was very great. On the other hand, isolated instances have occurred, in which quite the reverse has been the case. Thus it was at Saint Vincent, and more marked still in the gaol of Saint Christopher, where fourteen cases occurred amongst the forty-five prisoners confined, and five deaths, notwithstanding fifteen of the prisoners (of whom only one died) were employed during the epidemic digging the graves at the Crawl, the cholera burial ground for the parish of Saint George. I say, notwithstanding this, because, owing to the great mortality under similar circumstances at Barbados, some persons were disposed to attribute the deaths to contagion from this peculiar occupation, forgetting that the same individuals had been placed under similar circumstances in the gaol with their fellow prisoners who had suffered so severely, and it would have been singular if they had not been equally liable to attack.

In connexion with this question it may be right to mention here another very remarkable fact. Persons using musquito netting for their beds and for blinds have been known to escape in a remarkable manner epidemics of yellow fever; may this not be one of the reasons for the few cases of cholera amongst the white population in the West Indian islands. With all the foregoing facts before us, not in any way to be accounted for by any notion we have of contagion, nay, directly contradicting any idea of the kind, are we not led to the conclusion that the epidemic of cholera has been introduced into these islands by atmospheric agency.

The period during which the cholera has prevailed as an epidemic disease in the various localities of each separate island has been about eight or nine weeks, the mortality increasing up to the end of the third week, and then gradually declining. Such has also been observed to be the nature of this disease in Europe; where it has been of longer duration it seems rather to have been the result of two attacks of the epidemic than a continuation of the same one, and we consequently find the mortality, after having increased up to the end of the third week, gradually diminishing, although after a time again gradually but rapidly increasing for three weeks, when it has, as before, weekly diminished in its usual manner. I do not, of course, include sporadic cases, which, I apprehend, are attributed essentially to a different cause to that which produces the general epidemic.

The record of the persons dying daily from the epidemic in the island of Saint Christopher has been remarkably well kept, and no doubt contains every case; the great accuracy of this is, in a great measure, due to Mr. Wattley, the honorary secretary to the Board of Health, whose indefatigable zeal and industry during the outbreak of cholera in this as all the matters connected with his department deserves honourable mention. It is the only island which I have visited in which it has been possible to ascertain, with the slightest approach to accuracy, even the aggregate number of deaths from cholera. The following is a daily account of the total numbers dying in the several parishes, with the exception of the parish of Saint Peter, Basseterre, where thirty-one deaths during the first few days were included in the deaths occurring in St. George's:—

TABLE I.

	St. George, Basseterre.			Saint Peter, Basseterre.	Trinity, Palmetto Point.	Old Road.	Saint Thomas, Middle Island.	Saint Ann, Sandy Point.	Saint Paul, Capisterre.	Saint John, Capisterre.	Christ Church, Nichola Town.	Saint Mary, Cayon.	Total.
	Town and Estates.	Hospital.	Salt Ponds.										
Nov. 6	2	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	2
7	2	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	2
8	3	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	3
9	8	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	8
10	15	–	–	–	4	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	19
11	12	2	–	–	1	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	15
12	6	6	–	–	2	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	14
13	15	7	–	–	2	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	24
14	21	–	–	–	1	–	–	–	–	–	1	–	23
15	14	12	–	–	4	–	–	–	–	–	1	–	31
16	28	5	–	–	4	–	1	–	–	–	–	–	38
17	41	8	–	–	3	4	1	1	–	–	–	–	58
18	52	11	–	–	5	4	1	–	–	–	–	1	74
19	83	23	–	6	1	3	5	1	–	–	–	1	122
20	53	13	–	6	4	17	1	–	–	–	–	–	95
21	76	18	–	10	2	14	1	–	–	–	–	1	122
22	95	15	–	14	3	17	5	6	–	–	–	1	136

ST. KITTS.

	St. George, Basseterre.			Saint Peter, Basseterre.	Trinity, Palmetto Point.	Old Road.	Saint Thomas, Middle Island.	Saint Ann, Sandy Point.	Saint Paul, Capisterre.	Saint John, Capisterre.	Christ Church, Nichola Town.	Saint Mary, Cayon.	Total.
	Town and Estates.	Hospital.	Salt Ponds.										
Nov. 23	58	7	–	7	8	26	2	5	–	1	–	1	125
24	64	10	–	11	7	22	5	10	–	1	3	9	148
25	89	9	–	3	10	33	8	7	–	1	5	12	181
26	44	5	–	10	6	23	9	13	–	–	5	9	134
27	74	9	2	9	5	22	6	25	–	3	8	12	175
28	67	9	–	20	5	14	6	19	–	–	2	14	150
29	44	7	1	17	13	14	12	33	–	–	5	11	157
30	48	8	10	15	9	14	10	26	–	1	11	22	174
Dec. 1	26	4	7	7	9	18	10	31	1	–	6	17	136
2	23	6	5	18	4	5	7	30	–	1	8	25	132
3	32	8	2	14	5	7	15	30	3	–	17	20	153
4	25	6	1	17	2	7	5	29	1	4	10	12	119
5	18	5	3	22	2	5	6	23	2	3	10	12	111
6	11	6	1	7	4	8	5	35	–	13	4	15	109
7	5	6	1	15	4	5	8	28	–	12	5	12	101
8	16	3	–	6	2	–	10	26	–	–	6	10	86
9	9	1	–	4	2	1	5	22	1	1	4	13	74
10	7	3	–	3	1	–	7	29	2	2	11	11	80
11	9	3	–	4	3	3	2	16	2	6	5	12	63
12	2	–	–	6	5	–	3	18	1	4	3	9	63
13	3	–	–	3	2	2	3	17	4	16	11	8	58
14	2	1	–	–	1	1	2	12	3	5	9	4	53
15	2	–	–	4	2	2	6	10	1	18	3	8	50
16	5	–	–	5	2	1	2	9	–	12	6	8	44
17	–	21	–	1	1	1	2	6	3	6	3	8	34
18	–	–	–	3	1	–	–	6	3	–	8	4	36
19	1	–	–	3	2	1	1	7	2	6	3	5	32
20	2	–	–	3	–	–	–	3	6	8	3	8	29
21	–	–	–	–	2	–	–	2	4	4	3	5	24
22	–	–	–	–	1	–	1	5	3	8	3	2	18
23	–	–	–	1	1	–	1	5	6	3	1	1	22
24	–	–	–	1	1	–	–	4	6	6	1	2	20
25	–	1	–	–	1	–	–	2	2	5	2	4	18
26	–	–	–	–	1	1	–	3	3	7	4	3	20
27	–	–	–	1	2	–	1	3	2	3	3	7	25
28	–	–	–	–	1	–	–	–	5	5	2	4	21
29	–	–	–	1	1	–	–	3	4	8	–	2	14
30	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	1	5	3	4	3	16
31	–	–	–	1	–	–	1	–	–	3	2	4	11
Jan. 1	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	2	3	1	2	8
2	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	1	5	3	–	3	11
3	–	–	–	1	–	–	1	–	4	2	1	7	14
4	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	3	–	–	–	6
5	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	2	3	1	1	5
6	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	8	1	2	–	12
7	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	1	1	2	2	2	8
8	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	1	–	2	–	1	3
9	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	2	1	–	–	2
10	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	1	–	2
11	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	1	1	2	–	4
12	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	2	1	1	–	3
13	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	2	–	–	–	2
14	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	1	–	1
15	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	2	–	2	2	6
16	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	1	–	–	–	1
17	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	1	2
18	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	1	–	–	–
19	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	1	–	–	–	2
20	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	1	–	–	–
21	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	1	–	–	–	1
22	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
23	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	1	–	–	–	1
24	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	1	–	–	–	1
25	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	1	–	–	–	1
26	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
27	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
28	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
29	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
30	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
31	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	1	–	–	–	1

From this account of the total daily number of deaths in each parish the following Table is arranged by weeks, dating the first week from the several days on which the first death from cholera occurred in the respective parishes, and we find the result to agree precisely with what has been stated above to have taken place in other localities.

TABLE II.

	Week.									Total Deaths.
	1st.	2d.	3d.	4th.	5th.	6th.	7th.	8th.	9th.	
St. George, Basseterre	41	304	582	365	121	29	4	4	—	1,450
Salt Ponds - -	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	33
St. Peter, Basseterre -	31	62	96	85	25	11	3	2	—	315
Palmetto Point -	18	26	55	30	16	10	8	1	—	164
Middle Island -	15	48	58	38	13	3	2	—	—	177
Old Road - -	85	142	55	7	5	1	—	—	—	295
Sandy Point - -	13	133	206	140	43	22	5	2	—	564
Saint Paul's - -	7	13	19	27	23	14	7	5	1	116
Dieppe Bay - -	6	22	62	65	37	22	10	2	1	227
Nichola Town -	2	21	59	45	43	16	16	5	7	214
Cayon - - -	14	97	106	65	40	23	14	3	3	365
TOTAL - -	232	868	1,298	867	366	151	69	24	12	3,920

In the former Table of daily deaths those dying in Saint Peter's during the first period of the cholera in that parish were included with those in Saint George's, but these deaths in the above Table are inserted in their proper place against the parish of Saint Peter. It must be observed, however, that several of the deaths occurring at the cholera hospital were those of persons who had been admitted from the adjoining parishes, and on this account the total number of deaths in the parish of Saint George, as given above, are slightly greater than actually was the case. With regard to "the Salt Ponds," after the disease had existed for ten days, being out of the reach of any medical assistance, the inhabitants in a body fled to Basseterre. In the case of the town of Old Road the mortality appears to have been greatest in the second week; but it should be observed that this is a most unhealthy locality, lying very low, exceedingly damp, and the houses crowded together, to the total exclusion of any thing like ventilation.

The disease, during the first period, is everywhere invariably more rapid and more intractable, and the weak, the unhealthy, the drunkard, and the dissolute are the ones first to succumb to its dreadful blow. Added to this, the people, subject to an entirely new disease, are, in the beginning, less alive to the absolute necessity of the immediate application of remedies, and the warning diarrhœa, so general a symptom ushering in the disease, does not frequently precede, or rather is almost concomitant with the state of collapse, in the violent attack during the first outbreak of the disease. Diarrhœa also invariably prevails generally amongst the inhabitants of the island; this state of the bowels the people become habituated to, and are thus rendered less disposed to regard seriously such a symptom of disease.

The cholera epidemic then appears to attack a community in a regular manner; its violence increases, the number of its victims increase rapidly in a given time, apparently by certain fixed rules, and it dies away again also at a fixed period. It attacks those living in what are ordinarily the most healthy localities of a district as well as those living where all sanitary precautions against disease are totally disregarded, whilst in many instances the inhabitants of these latter hotbeds of ordinary diseases pass exempt. It is true that where it does find its way into these unhealthy localities the inhabitants suffer most severely, yet the occasional freedom of such places, and its fixing on the more open and cleanly places in a district have led the unthinking to be inclined to consider sanitary precautions of little or no effect.

I have attempted to state facts which tend to prove it is to atmospheric influences alone that we can turn to account for the introduction of cholera into a country. If this be really the fact, is it unreasonable to account for the peculiar nature and progress of the disease where it has been introduced by the supposition that all persons and places exposed to the action of some passing atmospherical influence are impregnated with the disease at one and the same time, and that the disease lies dormant in the system in different persons a longer or shorter period, such period being regulated by the state of the health and physical powers of the persons impregnated. It was well known that such is the case in many diseases, and that they are not developed until some days subsequent to the exposure to infection, nor in the same number of days in different persons; for instance, where persons are exposed to the influence of small-pox, the disease will lie dormant for periods varying from eight to fourten days in those exposed at the same time to the infection.

If the cholera be the result of some atmospherical influence acting at one and the same time upon the whole population, many, if not all, the peculiarities which we observe are at once accounted for. The disease acting more immediately on the unhealthy constitutions,

ST. KITTS.

and on those in whom the low powers of vitality are least able to resist, it would necessarily be those in whom the symptoms were more early developed, and who would be most severely affected, explaining at once how it is that at first the disease is so severe and intractable, and the cause of the large mortality we invariably find the case in the first three or four weeks of that disease. Its rapid rise and its gradual decline are precisely what would be expected under such circumstances. The inhabitants of low, damp, ill-ventilated, and otherwise unhealthy localties, and the idle, dissolute, and drunken, would consequently be the first in period of time, as is the case, to suffer from the epidemic, and amongst whom the disease would commit its greatest ravages, whilst although the more healthy, well-ventilated and cleanly localities might suffer when impregnated, it would not be to the extent, nor in severity, in proportion to the others. The directions of the Italians, given in accordance with their experience, not to fly to places as yet unattacked by the epidemic, but to stay where it has broken out, or to proceed to places which it has left, is perfectly intelligible upon this supposition. It is thus that we find anything which tends to lower the energy of the vital powers, exposure to cold or wet, drunkenness, and excesses of all kinds, producing their consequent depression, are so often followed immediately by an attack of the disease; all such cases have the effect of at once bringing into activity the dormant seeds of the disease.

It is imposible to give any accurate account of the number of persons attacked by cholera in this island, the materials for forming any opinion are wanting, in as much as before my arrival there were few returns of cases regularly made or kept. Besides this, from the nature of the disease even if these returns were furnished with regularity, which from pressure of cases during severity of the outbreak is seldom the case, they could scarcely be relied on, as no two persons will make a similar classification of the stages of the disease; since the period, however, of my undertaking the duties of medical inspector, the returns made to me by the medical officers and house to house visitors have been made with considerable regularity; from the returns made, the following were the number of persons and the stages of the disease in each when first seen, together with the deaths occurring amongst these cases.

TABLE III.

	Choleraic Diarrhœa.	Cholera.	Collapse.	Total Cases.	Deaths.	Per-centage of Deaths to Cases.
St. George, Basseterre -	768	737	376	1,881	445	23·65 or 5 in 23.
Cholera Hospital -	—	—	—	471	256	54·35 or 5 in 9.
Other Parishes - -	1,388	1,637	635	3,660	1,075	29·91 or 5 in 16.
Total Cases reported -	2,156	2,374	1,011	6,012	1,776	29·54 or 5 in 16.

Had the whole of the cases been under medical treatment, calculating according to this ratio, it would appear that nearly one half of the population had been attacked by the disease. The missionaries in the island, especially the Moravian mission, who are accustomed to afford slight medical assistance to their flock in the absence of persons properly qualified, at once exerted themselves in a most laudable manner to assist by giving their personal attendance to the poor. Mr. Mumford at Cayon deserves the greatest praise for his unwearied attentions in this way to the sick poor of his locality; as he however has no record of the cases he attended, no result can be given. In the town of Basseterre, Mr. Waymouth of the Wesleyan mission early in the outbreak offered his services, and in a like manner undertook the care of a limited number of cases occurring amongst some of his congregation, selecting such as were not entirely destitute of comforts and the means of aiding him in his efforts. He very judiciously limited the numbers at any one time to some twelve cases, so as to enable him properly to superintend the treatment, rather than by spreading his efforts over a number of cases which it would have been physically impossible to attend to. Proceeding in this manner, his reports of the result of his labours, made from time to time, are, that besides cases of simple diarrhœa, those whom he attended having some symptoms of cholera in a more or less aggravated form were sixty-four persons, of whom forty-five recovered, and nineteen died, being a loss of about five in seventeen cases. I ought not to omit mention here of the incessant exertions of the venerable the Archdeacon Jermyn, not, it is true, in any attempt to relieve the poor sufferers in the immediate medical treatment, but in his endeavour to relieve, to his utmost, the necessities and requirements of the poor, in every way. It was in the houses and by the bedside of these that he was constantly to be found hourly, both day and night; the vast amount of good that he effected in this manner was incalculable.

The deaths, however, there is little doubt, bear a greater proportion than five out of sixteen persons suffering from the epidemic. Very many denied, nay, the general habits of the black and coloured population is a dislike to, regular medical attendance on them, they prefer to quack themselves with herbs and barks. An unfortunate combination of circumstances at the outset of the epidemic by no means tended to increase their confidence in any treatment. It appears that on the meeting of the Board of Health after the first case of cholera had appeared, the medical gentlemen then present were requested

to draw up a prescription for some general medicine with directions for use, in order that they might be distributed gratuitously, so that in the unavoidable delay in procuring immediate medical assistance, which was likely to occur from the great paucity of medical men, the sufferers might be enabled at least to obtain some suitable general remedy. The result was the recommendation of a pill containing calomel, capsicum, and one grain of opium, together with a mixture containing laudanum, spirits of camphor, sulphuric æther, and compound spirits of ammonia in equal parts. A printed hand-bill was immediately circulated, in which the public were apprized that these medicines could be obtained upon application from the public supplies, with directions that one of the pills were to be given "immediately, to be followed by three tablespoonfuls of the mixture." The ill effect of this medicine was soon made manifest, and the directions in the hand-bill stated to be a mistake, that it should have been one instead of three tablespoonfuls. The hand-bills, however, had been distributed, and no means appear to have been taken to recall them or to issue fresh ones. In the amended directions the dose would be still excessive, if the mixture were not otherwise objectionable. Upon my arrival, I at once prohibited any further distribution. The ill effect of the medicines prescribed in this manner tended to deprive the general public of confidence in the regular medical treatment; and unfortunately, just at this moment a person named "Secchi" arrived in this island with a quack nostrum which he designated "Cholera Elixir." The disposition to quackery led the people at once to buy this remedy, and for a few days large quantities appear to have been sold. Its terrible fatal effects soon produced a re-action in the public with respect to this nostrum, and on my arrival in the island I found a complete panic,—numerous cases of cholera had no doubt died without the slightest treatment, and my experience in other places proves that where the disease has been left to its own course, the deaths have been two out of every three at least of those attacked.

Taking therefore all these circumstances into account, I from my own observation should say that it is probable that about a third of the whole population were attacked by the disease; as regards sex, the proportion has been—

	Total Deaths.	Population corrected.	Per-centage of Deaths to Population.
Males - - -	1,691	11,179	15·12
Females - - -	2,229	13,392	16·44
Total - - -	3,920	24,571	15·78

so that the disease has been somewhat more fatal amongst the female than the male population, but not to any great extent.

The total mortality from the epidemic however to the number of inhabitants is very great, as contrasted with European population, although not greater than has occurred in many other places, for instance, in Barbadoes, where at least 22,000 died out of a population of 135,000 or about the same proportion. I say at least, for no record by which any positive information can be arrived at was kept, and in this respect probably St. Christopher may suffer, when compared with other islands, in as much as the faithful record of every death may make the deaths appear large. The proportion of deaths to cases in the Cholera Hospital (54·35 per cent.), although large, is by no means greater than is universally the case with Cholera patients in such institutions all over the world. Thus in 1849 in London, at St. George's Hospital 55, at the Middlesex 50, in Shoreditch Workhouse 56, in Hackney 63, in St. Luke's 66, and in St. Giles 83 per cent. of the Cholera patients died. The mortality in proportion to the cases reported 23·65 per cent. (5 in 23) in St George's parish, and an average of 29·91 per cent. (5 in 16) in the other parishes, is by no means an unsatisfactory result when compared with European statistics. In Paris in 1852, of 13,000 persons attacked, 7,000 died, or about 54 per cent.; in one department 12,393 cases and 5,958 deaths, or 47 per cent. In St. Petersburgh the deaths were upwards of 60 per cent. In Berlin, in 1848, 65 per cent. In Hamburgh the same year nearly 48 per cent.

The great difference appears to have been not the mortality in a given number of cases but the greater number of cases to the amount of population, and this perhaps may in a great measure be accounted for. The white population, as in the other islands, suffered little or no mortality, only five deaths were recorded. When we look to the habits and constitutions of the black and coloured population, the low level of the land whereon the chief part of their houses are located, and the period of the year at which the epidemic occurred, the severity of the attack may be in a great measure accounted for. The diet of the black and coloured population is almost entirely vegetable, with little or no animal food, not even milk, and if any substance other than vegetable does at any time enter into the composition of their meal, it is occasionally fish, and that generally salted. They seldom eat more than one meal (supper) in the 24 hours, and they then distend their stomachs with immense quantities of this bulky description of food. This of itself tends to debilitate the stomach and bowels; they are wholly unable to digest the large amount of food thus suddenly thrust upon them, and nature relieves herself by much of the food

ST. KITTS.

passing away undigested, in the form of diarrhœa, hence this, as has been mentioned before, is the natural habit of the bowels of the inhabitants. The description of food is by no means conducive to a plethoric state of the system, in the same manner as highly azotized food would be. Owing to the climate less animal heat is required to be developed by the body, less heat producing food is necessary, and nature, ever adapting her laws to the necessities of the case, provides abundance of vegetables and fruits in a climate where the inhabitants require this description of food, and in a climate which is so ill adapted to the raising of animal food in any quantity. It is on account of the less plethoric nature of the food that the black and coloured population suffer at all times so little from febrile diseases; it is rarely the case that any of this class of the population die from fever—nevertheless, when disease does overtake them, the vigour of the system is so slight that they are less able to withstand the shock, or to rally when brought down by any great call upon their physical powers.

To some extent we find that the same alteration, so marked in its character in the more northern or southern latitudes, of a change in the heat producing requirements by the body in summer and winter, is the case in this climate. It is true the variation of the temperature between winter and summer is not so great, still it is to the inhabitants of these countries considerable, and we find the same causes produce the same effects as they do elsewhere—in the colder weather the appetite is sharpened and more food is consumed, to produce the requisite animal heat, which produces comparatively a more plethoric state of the body especially in proportion as the warmer weather advances. The system being in a condition to generate more animal heat than is required until the summer weather has well set in, and the quantity and quality of the food has been adapted ro the requirements of the season, until the proper balance is again established, the system is predisposed to disease, and these diseases put on an inflammatory type, in consequence of the unnecessary plethoric state. When the season again changes from summer to winter the same conditions operate, but in a reverse manner, and the system is perhaps more liable to attacks of disease even than in the spring; the system is at this time depressed, from want of vigour, owing to the greater call upon it, in order to supply a constantly increasing demand for the generation of animal heat, and the consequence is an asthenic state, wherein disease has a most depressing effect.

It is well known how great a mortality occurs in attacks of disease amongst the native inhabitants in the autumnal season of the year. Dysentery and diseases of the bowels generally, at such a time for instance, are almost always fatal; it is from diseases of the bowels that the black and coloured population of these islands suffer so much, whilst diseases of the chest and fever are so fatal to the white population.

It was at such a season (the fall of the year) occurring, when the state of the weather for the last two seasons had been of an unusual character, that the epidemic, essentially a depressing disease, fell upon the people. Considering the natural want of vigour in the constitution of the native inhabitants, and the season of the year when this otherwise peculiar constitution was further depressed and most obnoxious to disease, it was reasonable to expect that there was little chance of the system being able to throw off the smallest seeds of disease, but that the slightest impregnation by any epidemic, and especially of such an epidemic, would become developed and produce great mortality.

The crowded state of inmates, considering the size of the rooms of the houses of the poor classes generally, is a great evil, but their universal habit of shutting up their houses carefully, closing at night every crevice by which the smallest particle of air can enter, thus at night breathing the same air over and over again, whereby the proper decarbonization of the blood during the hours of rest becomes impossible, renders the inmates still more susceptible of disease than even their dirty habits; the material of which the houses or huts themselves are built is also bad, keeping the inhabitants surrounded as it does by decayed wood when they are old, and especially in showery weather this is very detrimental to their health. The general construction is faulty, and the small space left between the floor and the ground is also bad; here fowls and animals congregate, and every sort of filth and decomposing organic matter is allowed to accumulate, without chance of removal; the floor of the houses, if built above the ground, ought at all events to be of sufficient height to admit of being cleaned beneath. The peculiar character of the land of the island also, whereon the population reside, is just such as has been found where Cholera attacks the inhabitants in large numbers; it is but slightly elevated above the level of the sea, and in many places almost on a level with it, as is the case with the greater part of the towns of Basseterre, Old Road, and Sandy Point. Three fourths of the inhabitants of the island live in houses but a few feet above the level of the sea, built on land sloping very gently or in a basin, as is more or less the case with a considerable part of Basseterre. Appended to this report will be found a copy of three letters I have received from Mr. Merritt, captain of the "Catharine Elizabeth," Mr. Quin, the sub-treasurer, and Mr. Auld, a merchant, all of whom remarked a peculiar mist over the town of Basseterre, especially the low parts, just at the time the Cholera first made its appearance. Such an unusual phenomenon at such a time is, to say the least of it, an exceedingly curious coincidence.

There does not appear to be any locality in the island which has escaped attack, and of the localities attacked, the following gives the different rates of mortality for each :—

TABLE V.

	Population at Outbreak corrected.	Total Deaths.	Per-centage of Deaths to Population.
St. George, Basseterre -	6,800	1,450	—
Salt Ponds - -	—	33	21·35
St. Peter, Basseterre -	2,198	315	—
Palmetto Point - -	1,128	164	14·33
Middle Island - -	2,465	177	19·10
Old Road - - -		295	
Sandy Point - -	3,730	564	15·10
St. Paul's - - -	1,633	116	7·10
Dieppe Bay - -	2,612	227	8·69
Nichola Town - -	1,862	214	11·49
Cayon - - -	2,110	365	17·29
TOTAL - -	24,538	3,920	15·92

The generally more salubrious and healthy parishes of Saint Paul and Saint John are those in which the rate of mortality is much the smallest.

In the town of Basseterre and parish of Saint George's the numbers dying in the several localities are:

Albert's Village - - -	37	Kitt Stoddarts - - - -	32
Bakers' Corner - - -	51	Liverpool Row - - -	3
Beach, the - - -	2	La Gueritte Estate - - -	1
Blake's Estate - - - -	1	Lozacks Village - - -	3
Bluff Point - - -	1	Nevis Street - - -	30
Buckley's Village - - -	14	New Town - - -	272
Camp Estate - - -	2	Pall Mall Square - - -	5
Carney's Village - - -	14	Pond Village - - -	4
Cayon Street - - - -	66	Prickly Pear Alley - - -	72
Church Street - - -	6	Rawlins' Mornes Estate - -	1
College Street - - -	119	Rosemary Lane - - - -	4
College Village - - -	7	Shadwell Village - - -	11
Cross Street - - -	2	Sheer Lane - - - -	23
Cuningham Hospital - -	10	Soho - - - -	19
Fort Street - - -	11	Taylor's Village - - - -	24
Frigate Bay Estate - - -	1	Temple, the - - -	24
Gaol, the - - - -	5	Treasury Alley - - -	1
Golden R. Village - - -	10	Victoria Road - - -	6
Gut, the - - - -	58	Watsons' Alley - - -	1
Greenland Village - - -	12		
Hams Road - - - -	1	Total from St. George's - -	1,450
Hazells Land - - - -	4	From St. Peter's parish - -	31
Hospital, Cholera - - -	256		
Irish Town - - -	144	Total buried at the Crawl - -	1,481
King's Ground - - -	80		

In the accompanying plan of the town the number of deaths are inserted against the several streets, &c. in which they occurred.

By the following table of the rate of mortality of those at the different ages it will be seen that, as is generally the case, the elderly people have suffered much more from the epidemic than the younger:

TABLE VI.

	Under 5 Years.	5 and under 10.	10 and under 15.	15 and under 20.	20 and under 30.	30 and under 40.	40 and under 50.	50 and under 60.	60 and under 70.	70 and under 80.	80 and under 90.	Above 90.
Death per Cent. to living -	5·99	6·45	6·51	7·25	7·55	10·98	12·65	13·58	23·96	28·34	22·7	37·77
or about -	1 in 17	1 in 15	1 in 15	1 in 14	1 in 13	1 in 9	1 in 8	1 in 7	1 in 4	1 in 3	1 in 4	2 in 5

The rate of mortality progressively increased with an increase of age pretty regularly up to the age of sixty, when the proportion of deaths to the living became greatly augmented, so much so that more than one fourth of the population above that age have

ST. KITTS.

been carried off; from birth to fifteen years of age about one in fifteen, from fifteen years to sixty years one in ten, and above sixty years of age one in four of the population have died. These relative proportions do not differ much from those in European countries.

Of the seat of cholera and its treatment nothing occurred to alter the opinion I have before expressed upon the subject; the total arrest of the whole absorbent system when collapse supervenes must, with our present knowledge of medicine, render the treatment of this stage of this disease most disheartening. Few who have had the treatment of such cases will be disposed to claim much credit for success. All must deplore their utter inability to combat successfully with any degree of certainty this stage of the disease, especially in the black and coloured population, when, after having apparently even brought them through this stage, they too often rapidly sink from their physical powers being wholly unable to withstand the shock, and the system to rally. In the earlier stages of the disease, if proper attention be paid, great success will attend the efforts of the attendant; if once the liver be brought into action a cure may be relied upon. The success I met with in the treatment I was enabled to carry out in the island of Saint Vincent during the later period of the outbreak induced me to recommend the same to be followed in this island, and when fairly and properly applied I have invariably heard of its great success. During the first period of the outbreak, as has been stated above, the attacks are always more rapid, and these are often unaccompanied with the premonitory diarrhœa, at all events for any length of time, the patient rapidly passing through the various stages, when the mortality is necessarily great; but if the patient, upon the first appearance of diarrhœa, is enabled to procure the necessary remedy, the disease was at once arrested by a dose of calomel combined with Dover's powder, followed by an aperient of compound extract of colocynth, which is far preferable if to be procured than castor-oil. The diarrhœa if cholera cannot be permanently checked by astringents or sedatives, by the administration of which much valuable time, if it be cholera, is lost. There can be no doubt of this fact, and it is much to be regretted that this line of practice was unfortunately promulgated some years since by authority. Fortunately the treatment of diarrhœa by calomel and aperients is not only a remedy in the event of its arising from cholera, but also if it should arise otherwise. The diarrhœa of cholera itself would appear to be an effort of nature to relieve herself. In the subsequent stages the presence of calomel in the stomach is an essential ingredient to success.

The rapid nature of the disease renders it necessary that a constant watch be kept for its appearance, and the great utility of a proper system of house to house visitation, especially where medical assistance was so limited as it is in these islands, necessarily engaged my early attention. Whether the panic produced by the great mortality or some other cause had operated I do not know, but on my arrival I found the house to house visitation by no means satisfactory, and it was necessary at once to re-organize the staff for this purpose in the town of Basseterre; subsequently the duty being efficiently performed by the persons selected, added to the assiduous attention of Dr. Dyett and Mr. Beard, between whom the medical care of this town was divided, the confidence of the people was soon established, and much good I am convinced resulted from the regularity with which the visitation was carried on, and the consequent prompt administration of the proper remedies.

I also early found the necessity of supplying the house to house visitors, the managers of estates and others, with medicines and simple rules for their guidance. I consequently drew up prescriptions for some few medicines, to be used in the absence of any medical attendant, and sent a copy to the several medical men of the island, and the dispensers were directed to furnish these medicines to every applicant. Every house to house visitor throughout the island was furnished with the medicines as speedily as possible, and likewise with printed directions, a copy of which and also of the prescriptions are appended to this report. The directions were distributed also amongst the managers and overseers of the several estates, and the clergymen and ministers throughout the island.

In all this I received the most cordial co-operation from the Board of Health, whose exertions to meet the outbreak I found had been, from the very outset unceasing, and the arrangements of a most liberal character. Upon the chairman of the Board of Health, his honour the Chief Justice, Mr. Aston Davoren, devolved an amount of labour which few persons would have been physically enabled to accomplish. Prior to my arrival the chief weight of the arrangements fell upon him alone, and to his activity and exertions, I am satisfied, all owe a heavy debt of gratitude. The assistance afforded to the chairman by Mr. Quin deserves mention, the order and regularity with which the interments at the "Crawl" took place was solely owing to the energetic superintendence of this gentleman, without which much delay and mischief might have arisen; and to another member, Mr. Udall, are the poor indebted for the able manner in which he exerted himself in the distribution of food to the necessitous. This most essential branch of the labours of the Board of Health during the epidemic was entirely arranged and carried out under the judicious personal superintendence of this gentleman, involving much labour and trouble.

The Board of Health as at present constituted, like all such Boards in the West Indies, is composed of too large numbers for practical purposes. The composition seems to have been made rather with a view to obtain the co-operation of some member in the several parishes than for working purposes. The placing the medical men also upon the Board as members seems to be a mistake, as it must necessarily interefere greatly with their useful-

ness; they would have been much more beneficially employed in the attendance on the sick, than by spending three or four hours at the Board of Health.

As the epidemic is now passed, it may not be amiss to consider the constitution of this body, and to put the Board upon a permanent footing. I would strongly urge the necessity of placing at the head a paid, and therefore a responsible chairman, who alone should form a quorum, and who, together with a secretary, might be intrusted with the duties of superintending the general sanitary regulation, so necessary to be persevered in for the future. The experience of such persons would, in the event of any sudden outbreak of disease, save much of the expense which, from want of any prior experience, necessarily took place during the Cholera. The Board might consist of the paid chairman, and some three honorary members, of which, as involving the outlay of money, the Speaker of the House of Assembly and a member of the Legislative Council might form two such members of the Board (with the exception of the Speaker of the House of Assembly), and the Secretary being appointed by the Lieutenant-Governor.

I am given to understand that, in as much as such appointments would not employ the whole time of the persons appointed, a salary of 180*l.* for the chairman would command the services of a person of position and possessing judgment and experience, and for the secretary 150*l.* would be required When such a Board should be appointed, it would be necessary to pass some well digested sanitary measure for the island, giving general powers to the Board under ordinary circumstances, and especial powers in cases of emergency, such latter powers to be called into operation for short periods, as occasion might require, by an order of Lieutenant-Governor. The permanent services of a Board of Health so constituted would be of great benefit at all times in carrying out sanitary arrangements, and would be of incalculable advantage to the colony in any emergency.

Many great evils, especially in the towns and villages, might be remedied by a building act, whereby the proper construction of dwellings, and the crowding together of them, might be entirely controlled, without any serious injury or interference with the rights of any person. I would suggest an enactment by which, in order to ensure proper ventilation, no buildings should be erected by any one on more than one third of any plot of land he possessed; that no house should be built with any vacancy below it when the space between the ground and floor of the building was not at least six feet, and that the fence by which it was surrounded did not exceed a certain height, together with other powers necessary for ensuring the proper building and arrangement of streets, gutters, sewers, or cesspits. The evils connected with improper buildings and their arrangement are very great in some parts of the towns and villages. In Basseterre, the parts called Newtown, Irishtown, and Prickley Pear Alley are especially objectionable, and if a clearance could be effected here by a small outlay, by purchasing up and pulling down some of the houses, it would be extremely desirable. The land might be re-sold to erect proper buildings, subject to the restrictions pointed out, and the money be again available for a like purpose; in this manner a small fund in the first instance might be made to effect great good. The execution of these powers granted under a building act might be intrusted to the Board of Health.

The question of a good and proper supply of water to the inhabitants of Basseterre I find has already engaged the attention of the Legislature of the island, and this good work is now being carried out; this will, hereafter, be a source of revenue, and the control and direction of the business incidental to the waterworks might likewise be intrusted to the Board of Health contemplated.

Important as the foregoing questions are, a much more serious serious subject than either of them deserves the most attentive consideration of the public, viz., the question of medical attendance, and the present paucity of medical men. Unless some steps be taken to induce medical men to settle or remain in the island, their absence will be most seriously felt. In the time of slavery, the owners of slaves on every estate paid the medical men of the district a dollar or a dollar and a half per head per annum for medicines and attendance. Upon the abolition of slavery this payment by the proprietors was given up, and the labourers left to find their own medical attendant. The result has been, that either from the habit of having had this found them gratuitously, or from a natural dishonesty of character, or from a want of forethought, the black and coloured people seldom think of paying a medical bill. The effect of such a state of things is, the gradually diminishing number of resident medical men, for they find it impossible to obtain sufficient money to meet the most frugal expenditure. The labouring population will pay nothing, and those above that class are not numerous enough to make the practice in any locality an inducement to settle or remain, when once the difficulty of procuring the means of subsistence comes upon the medical man. Hence all suffer, and will do so more than hitherto; both the labourer and the class who can afford to pay for professional services will be left without any qualified medical attendant whatsoever, much less a choice, unless some means are provided other than at present exist. The wisdom of expending large sums in the importation of labourers is not very apparent, whilst those already on the spot are left unprovided with the means of preservation against the attacks and ravages of sickness and disease. The Legislature seems to have felt this evil, for I find that during the past year the sum of 100*l.* each, to five medical men, has been granted out of the public funds, for the payment of medical attendance on the children of the poor under nine years of age. The result of even so small a bounty had the effect of inducing two

ST. KITTS.

medical gentlemen to settle in the island, and thus made an addition to the general medical staff; some dissatisfaction it is true, whether just or not, has been expressed as to the attendance under this bill; but the fault is not so much in the principle of the measure as it is in the want of some person or body to ensure, by proper constant superintendence, the efficient working of the law. The amount granted for the attendance on the children, it is very evident, will not retain in the island the services of gentlemen for any period, nor can it be expected that an amount sufficient to secure this object can be granted out of the Island Treasury. I would therefore suggest a mode of payment to medical men for their attendance upon the labouring population which would at once furnish a sufficient amount of money to command the settlement in the several districts of the island of properly qualified medical men, and ensure the best available means of preserving the lives of those who labour on the soil, and without whom the land itself is worth little, at the same time it would secure to those in more affluent circumstances the presence in their locality of medical men, whose services they might be able to avail themselves of in case of sickness overtaking themselves or their families.

All attempts at voluntary medical clubs hitherto have been more or less a failure, and I would therefore make them compulsory by legislative enactment, by rendering it imperative on the employer of weekly or daily labour to deduct at the rate of one penny per week from the wages, and to pay such sum into a general medical fund. This would in no one year exceed a dollar deducted from the labourer's wages for his medical attendance, and in the aggregate would create a considerable amount. This is the system adopted by the proprietors of mines, factories, &c. in England, to provide for the medical attendance on those in their employ. As labour, however, is there abundant, they are enabled to insist upon an agreement to a deduction for this purpose as a condition of employment; but it would be necessary in this island, where labour is, and must always be, more or less scarce, as also owing to the nature of the circumstances, to make such a deduction one of legal enforcement. I am disposed to think from inquiries I have made that such a system would not be objected to either by master or servant, and any small objection in individual cases would die away when the benefits derived are discovered upon the system being brought into operation. It avoids the evils of being a charitable donation, and although it would be a compulsory payment, nevertheless the labourer would feel that his medical attendance was a right purchased by his own money. The payment should be certified by the employer, and thereupon the right accrue to seek the advice of any medical gentleman he might desire, although in case of attendance at his own home it would be necessary to restrict him to the one appointed to the district in which the patient resided. By the Census, it appears that there are 7,500 labourers, and 1,200 domestics, who would contribute to such a fund,—in round numbers, probably about 8,000 persons,—which would thus give about £8,000, or 1,666*l.* yearly, as the sum collected. I should suggest the re-arrangement of the present medical districts into six instead of five, creating a new one for Nichola Town, and extending the Dieppe Bay district more in the direction of St. Paul's, and the Cayon one more towards Basseterre. The medical fund should be equally divided between the districts, and would then give, added to the 500*l.* public money granted for attendance upon the children under nine years of age, about 350*l.* for each of the districts. This, together with any sum which might accrue from attendance on other persons in the locality, would be such as to ensure the settlement in the island of competent and well-qualified parties.

The arrangement and superintendence of all this should be with the Board of Health, and to them should be made weekly returns of the attendance, more especially the attendance upon the children. Any complaints against the medical attendant would be made to the Board of Health, and I would suggest that power of suspension in cases of proved neglect or irregularity should be placed in the hands of the Board, who should thereupon make a written report to the Lieutenant-Governor, in whom alone should rest the power of dismissal. These powers would be similar to those possessed in England by Boards of Guardians, who have the power of suspending their officers, but the dismissal rests with the Poor Law Board. No doubt great benefit would result if, in the general superintendence, in respect to this as well as sanitary matters generally, the Board and the Lieutenant-Governor were enabled to avail themselves of the services of some independent medical man; but unless a permanent General Medical Inspector for the West Indian Islands be appointed such would be impossible. The advantages to be derived from this scheme of medical attendance, by as it were a compulsory medical club, would be much aided by a supply of medical necessaries during illness; and it might not be objected to that, under these circumstances, the general public should so far aid the subscribers to this fund by contributing such comforts and food as might be required, upon the written order of the medical man, during his attendance only, subject to proper rules and regulations; should this be acquiesced in, some proper person could be appointed by the Guardians of the Poor in each of the several parishes to receive and execute the orders given.

A proper registration of Births and Deaths, with the cause of death certified by the medical men, would, under the system of attendance suggested, be easily effected. The Chairman of the Board of Health might be appointed Registrar General, and quarterly returns made to him.

It has been suggested to me, that the services of the Chairman of the Board of Health might be also rendered available in auditing the public accounts before they are presented to the Committee of Public Accounts.

Such is a hasty, and necessarily a slight, sketch of requirements which seem to me to demand immediate and serious attention. The details would be easily arranged, if the principle be conceded, in any or all of the measures pointed out, and I feel confident the inhabitants of the island, as a body, would all feel the benefit which would result from the very small outlay of public funds which is involved in these suggestions.

In conclusion I have only to add, that finding the duties that had engaged my time so fully during the pressure of cholera had somewhat abated, and the suggestion of obtaining a census having resulted in the issuing of a commission by your Excellency for this object, I have more recently been enabled to devote my attention to arranging and drawing up tables from the returns. A copy of the result of these labours was appended to the report of myself and brother commissioners, which has already been forwarded to your Excellency.

I have, &c.

THOS. H. COOPER.

COPY of LETTERS referred to.

On board the Catharine Elizabeth, St. Kitts,
February 26th, 1855.

SIR,

IN answer to your inquiries as to the peculiarity in the atmosphere which I observed from my ship in the bay at the beginning of November last, I have to state, that it took place some four or five days before the commencement of cholera in Basseterre, but I cannot charge my memory with the precise day; it had the appearance of a thin bluish transparent haze over the town, and although I had been riding at anchor, awaiting a cargo, since August last, I had never observed anything of the kind before, nor have I since that period. At the time, I remember, it was quite a dead calm, scarcely any wind at all.

Your obedient Servant,
PETER MERRETT, Captain.
EDWARD HENARE, Chief Officer.

T. H. Cooper, Esq., Medical Inspector.

MY DEAR SIR,

Basseterre, St. Kitts, 28th February 1855.

WITH reference to our conversation and my remarks on the strange appearance of the weather in the early part of November last past, I must regret being unable to furnish you with precise information on the subject. I recollect it to have been about the first days of the outbreak of the cholera, but I cannot speak positively as to dates, when I observed that the town, more particularly that portion known as New Town, when viewed from the high land at the opposite western extremity of Basseterre, appeared to be covered with a light thin haze. I have before observed, at a very early hour in the morning, a mist approaching it in appearance, but which quickly disappeared with the rising sun; but in the present instance it was not so, but the vapour continued to hang over the town during the whole day. The weather at the time was very calm, the light air that did exist being from the usual quarter, East. I regret not having made more particular observation at the time, and beg to remain,

My dear Sir,
yours truly,
WM. QUIN.

T. H. Cooper, Esq., Medical Inspector.

MY DEAR SIR,

Basseterre, 28th February, 1855.

Having passed the day with a friend resident in a somewhat elevated part of the island, I had an opportunity of observing to advantage the peculiar appearance of the atmosphere, to which you refer as having been noticed by others, on the Thursday immediately preceding the outbreak of cholera.

A thick palpable light grey cloud, similar to a fog bank, hung over the margin of the land, apparently motionless, although the usual fresh breeze was blowing, and all around the sky was comparatively clear; early in the morning a similar appearance might not have attracted observation, but this was at bright noonday, nor at the moment did I attach more importance to it than I would have done to any of the peculiar atmospheric appearances occasionally presenting themselves to the eye, but since the outbreak of cholera, two days after, I have, whether rationally or not, always associated it with the epidemic.

I am yours very truly,
R. C. AULD.

T. H. Cooper, Esq., Medical Inspector.

Appendix No. 2. in No. 20.

The REPORT of the COMMISSIONERS for taking the CENSUS, January 1st 1855, together with the ANALYTICAL TABLES.

CONTENTS.

	Page
Commission	152
Report of Commissioners	153
Table 1.—Population in quinquennial periods	156
„ 2.—Occupations of population	157
„ 3.—Place of birth of ditto	158
„ 4.—Arrangement in classes of the population in the several parishes	159
„ 5.—Area, population, and houses of the various estates and villages in the several parishes	161
„ 6.—Recapitulation of tables 4 and 5	166
„ 7.—Population of the several parishes, according to census of 1844 and of 1855	167
„ 8.—Increase and decrease of total population of 1844 to 1st January, 1855	167

Saint Christopher.

By his Excellency Edward Hay Drummond Hay, Esquire, Lieutenant-Governor of the Leeward Islands, administering the Government of the Islands of Saint (L.S.) Christopher and Anguilla, Chancellor, Vice-Admiral, and Ordinary of the same, &c. &c. &c.

E. H. Drummond Hay.

To Archibald Paull Burt, esquire, Attorney General, Thomas Henry Cooper, esquire, Medical Inspector General, and James Udall, esquire, Justice of the Peace.

WHEREAS, amid the dispensations of Almighty God, the population of this island hath been visited with epidemic disease, which hath proved fatal to the lives of great numbers of the people:

And whereas it is desirable and right that measures should be taken to ascertain the number of the survivors:

I, reposing full trust and confidence in your fidelity, discretion, and integrity, have authorized and appointed, and do by these presents authorize and appoint, you, the said Archibald Paull Burt, Thomas Henry Cooper, and James Udall, my commissioners, to make full and diligent inquiry on this head.

And I hereby authorize you the said commissioners to adopt such measures, and to make such arrangements for the accurate enumeration of the population of this island, as by you shall be deemed most convenient and appropriate, and least likely to cause distress or annoyance to the people, or to render necessary any considerable outlay of the public funds, now sorely exhausted.

And whereas it is necessary for the accuracy of the said enumeration that it should be made on one and the same day throughout the island, you are by these presents required to cause the said enumeration to be accomplished on the night of the thirty-first day of December instant, or on the morning of the first day of January one thousand eight hundred and fifty-five.

And I do by these presents grant to you, or any one of you, full power and authority to call to your aid, in the fulfilment of the trust hereby reposed in you, all such persons in connexion with the public service of the colony as shall by you be judged necessary.

And I do by these presents further call upon all Her Majesty's subjects in this colony to be aiding and assisting you, by every means in their power, to carry into effect the object of this my commission.

And for the purpose of further aiding you, the said commissioners, in the execution of these premises, I hereby appoint Joseph King Wattley, esquire, barrister-at-law, to be secretary to this commission.

You will from time to time report to me all and every of the several the proceedings of yourselves had by virtue of these presents, together with such other matters, if any, as may be deserving of my consideration touching or concerning the premises. And on

ST. KITTS.

the completion of the duty with which you are by these presents charged you will report to me the final result of your inquiry.

Given at Government House, St. Christopher, this twenty-second day of December, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and fifty-four.

By his Excellency's command,

R. MURRAY RUMSEY,
Colonial Secretary.

REPORT.

To his Excellency Edward Hay Drummond Hay, Esquire, Lieutenant-Governor of the Leeward Islands, administering the Government of the Islands of Saint Christopher and Anguilla, Chancellor, Vice-Admiral, and Ordinary of the same, &c. &c. &c.

WE, the Commissioners appointed by your Excellency, having completed the census of the population, now respectfully submit the accompanying eight tables, containing the result of our labours.

On receipt of the commission we deemed it advisable to obtain the assistance of some gentlemen in each of the parishes whose local knowledge and experience would secure the accuracy of the district enumerations; we therefore addressed to—

Mr. Quin, Saint George, Basseterre,
Mr. Hardtman, Saint Peter, Basseterre,
Mr. Boon, Trinity, Palmetto Point,
Mr. Willson, Saint Thomas, Middle Island,
Mr. Cox, Saint Ann, Sandy Point,
Mr. Diggens, Saint Paul, Capisterre,
Mr. Gould, Saint John, Capisterre,
Mr. Tudor, Christ Church, Nichola Town,
Mr. Mumford, Saint Mary, Cayon,

the following circular:—

"SIR, Basseterre, 22d December 1854.

"IT is proposed to take advantage of the opportunity which will be afforded by the approaching holidays to make a census of the population of the island, and to accomplish, by voluntary services, an object so desirable to the agricultural interest. The scheme is, that an influential person shall be requested to take charge of each parish, and to procure an enumeration of the inmates who slept in each habitation on the night of Sunday, the 31st of December, to be made at break of day on the first day of January next.

"To effect this, such person is requested immediately to secure the services of the several managers and overseers of the estates within the parish, and they in their turn are requested forthwith to enlist the services of all constables, tradesmen, and other intelligent parishioners, so that each manager or overseer may to his own satisfaction obtain, by such aid, a correct account of the persons resident on the estate or location superintended by him; and the General Director, on receipt of these several returns from the different managers, after they shall have been filled up on the morning of the 1st of January, is requested, after examination, to forward the same to the Commissioners, at the Court House, Basseterre, for the general compilation of this desirable work.

"The General Director of the parish is also particularly requested to obtain the services of a sufficient number of persons to act as enumerators in the several villages in his parish to ensure accuracy.

"You are particularly requested to undertake the duties of General Director for the parish of .

"So soon as the necessary forms are printed, they will be forwarded to you for distribution among all persons whom you may procure to act within your parish.

"We have, &c.

"ARCHD. PAULL BURT,
"THOS. H. COOPER,
"JAS. UDALL,
} Commissioners."

We also addressed a similar circular to the several proprietors, managers, and overseers of estates throughout the island, requesting them to co-operate with the gentleman selected to superintend the enumeration of their respective parishes, and immediately to place themselves in communication with them. To the ready and energetic exertions of those to whom we thus appealed we are indebted for the accuracy of the enumerations from which our compilations have been made. In every quarter we met with the desired assistance.

The population, on the morning of the 1st January, we find to be,—

MALES - -	9,525
FEMALES - -	11,216
TOTAL - -	20,741

ST. KITTS.

This amount, compared with the last census taken in 1844, (Table vii.) presents an apparent decrease of the population in every parish, with the exception of Saint John, Capisterre, which has increased 223. The facts connected with this part of the inquiry will be found more fully set forth in Table viii., wherein will be seen added to the total population in June, 1844, the increase which has taken place since that period, viz.; first, by the excess of births over the deaths up to the period of the visitation of epidemic cholera in November last; and secondly, the amount of immigrants from Madeira and England, and also the liberated Africans sent to the Island by Her Majesty's Government.

When the deaths from cholera are added to the number of the present population we yet find a considerable deficiency. The deaths from cholera to the 31st December, inclusive, amounted to 3,830; the excess of births over the ordinary deaths being 3,037; a fact otherwise so satisfactory (the assumed annual increase of population in England being 1 per cent.) is unfortunately counterbalanced by the loss in population from cholera, which has taken away 793 more than the increase arising from the excess of births over the deaths in the island for the 10½ years since the census was taken in 1844. The total decrease, however, exceeds this number by 1434, being altogether 2,227. Whether this decrease is the result of emigration, or the consequence of the faulty system under which the census was taken in 1844, we are unable to ascertain. We have good reason to believe that errors, by which the amount of the population was materially enhanced, did occur in 1844, and that the mode in which the enumerations were then made afforded no opportunity for corrections. We are also aware that some of the labouring population have left this island, allured by mercenary emissaries to neighbouring colonies, under promise of higher wages, and although many have returned, we have no clue by which we can trace the number of departures and of returns.

We are, therefore, necessarily forced to abandon further inquiry on this interesting subject, leaving it matter of incertitude how many of the numerals 2,227, set forth in Table viii., are caused by errors in the former enumerations, and how many by emigration. It may, however, be stated as the result of our inquiries on this point, that during the past three or four years the number of labourers leaving this island has been inconsiderable compared with prior years, and that the emigrants find the prospects held out to them not realized, and have been returning in numbers about equal to those annually emigrating.

The difficulty we have experienced in our efforts to ascertain the number of emigrants arises in consequence of the transport of labourers from this island being carried on illicitly, in contravention of the provisions of the "Passengers Act;" numbers of persons are crowded together in small vessels, inadequately found, and destitute of all necessary arrangements for carrying passengers. The greatest vigilance of the authorities proves ineffectual to check this species of illegal traffic, which appears to be carried on by emissaries, generally persons of a low order, dressed in fashionable array, with a gaudy display of tinsel ornaments, who are left on the island for a time to work upon the credulity of their dupes. A vessel, at an appointed hour of the night, hovers about some unfrequented part of the coast, and thus the embarcation is effected without risk of detection.

We learn that many obligations are thus evaded, and that these periodical opportunities are rendered available by the depraved, to leave a wife and numerous children, aged and infirm parents, and, very frequently, deluded creditors, each in turn to bewail these secret deportations. Although the comparative comfort of the labouring population of this island is a guarantee against any extensive success attending the pursuit of these illicit proceedings, yet in this community, in common with all others, persons will periodically be found ready to avail themselves of opportunities of secretly withdrawing from existing legal and moral obligations, which they deem onerous and distasteful.

By Table I. the population is given in quinquennial periods, and in reviewing this table your Excellency will be gratified to recognize the large number of youth in proportion to the whole population:

	Under 15.	From 15 to 60.	Above 60.
Males - -	4,185	4,921	419
Females - - -	4,248	6,211	757
	8,433	11,132	1,176

Those under fifteen years of age being two fifths of the whole population. A considerable excess of females over the male population is commonly the case in the West Indian Colonies, but one sixth more females than males, as appears by the table, seems large.

While looking over Table II. our attention is drawn to the undue and lamentable number of seamstressess which it exhibits. The large mass of this class it appears are

domiciled in and about the towns of Basseterre and Sandy Point. We feel that these figures call for some explanation, and it is furnished in the fact that many able-bodied and strong young women, having no visible means of support, have reported themselves as seamstresses, and thus, on their own assertion, have been enumerated with this industrial class of the population. In this table of occupations, we have taken no account of children under ten years of age, nor of those persons returned as permanently disabled from age, sickness, or corporal injuries. It is also proper to remark that we find the age at which labour is discontinued is not very generally under seventy-five years, indeed many older persons we find employed as cattle minders or herdsmen.

We should also draw attention to the fact, that in the same table, under the head "Unoccupied," is included many of the most busy of the population. We experienced a difficulty in the classification of a large portion of the female population; and under this head, "Unoccupied," we have been obliged to enumerate the wives and other female members of families who are not engaged in any manual or scientific labour. Under the denomination "Unoccupied" is also included all persons at school, above ten years of age.

By the various other tables, we have endeavoured to furnish such information, parochial and otherwise, as the means at our command enabled us to attain, sparing neither time nor labour in our efforts to render the information, so readily and gratuitously afforded to us, as generally useful as possible.

Should your Excellency, in these our labours, recognize the cause of the delay in furnishing our report, and deem the completion of our work a satisfactory execution of the trust confided to us, we and our co-operators will therein acknowledge our ample reward.

In conclusion we report, that the total expenses incurred in the execution of your Excellency's commission amount to the sum of 33*l.* 10*s.* 1½*d.*, made up of the following items:—

	£	s.	d.
Printing	31	16	6
Stationery	1	5	3½
Messengers	0	8	4
	33	10	1½

We have, &c.

ARCHD. PAULL BURT,
THOS. H. COOPER,
JAS. UDALL,
} Commissioners.

TABLE 1.—AGES

Of the Total Population, 20,741, Classified in Quinquennial Periods.

[*Census taken 1st January* 1855.]

	MALES.																					FEMALES.															TOTAL.		
	Under 5 Years.	5 Years and under 10.	10 Years and under 15.	15 Years and under 20.	20 Years and under 25.	25 Years and under 30.	30 Years and under 35.	35 Years and under 40.	40 Years and under 45.	45 Years and under 50.	50 Years and under 55.	55 Years and under 60.	60 Years and under 65.	65 Years and under 70.	70 Years and under 75.	75 Years and under 80.	80 Years and under 85.	85 Years and under 90.	90 Years and under 95.	95 Years and upwards.	Under 5 Years.	5 Years and under 10.	10 Years and under 15.	15 Years and under 20.	20 Years and under 25.	25 Years and under 30.	30 Years and under 35.	35 Years and under 40.	40 Years and under 45.	45 Years and under 50.	50 Years and under 55.	55 Years and under 60.	60 Years and under 65.	65 Years and under 70.	70 Years and under 75.	75 Years and under 80.	80 Years and under 85.	85 Years and under 90.	90 Years and under 95.	95 Years and upwards.	Males.	Females.	Total Population.
Saint George, Basseterre:																																							
Town - - -	269	265	282	203	195	140	129	110	95	66	74	33	24	10	8	8	–	1	–	1	280	321	294	250	323	219	178	174	170	102	132	65	72	27	34	16	25	1	–	1	1,913	2,684	4,597
Estates - - -	40	46	40	41	31	23	14	22	18	12	11	5	5	4	1	3	–	1	1	–	38	47	33	32	19	26	22	20	16	19	14	12	7	2	3	1	2	2	2	–	318	317	635
Hospital - -	8	3	1	4	6	1	2	–	–	4	2	2	2	1	–	–	1	–	–	–	11	4	4	6	4	3	1	3	1	2	3	2	1	–	1	1	2	1	–	–	37	50	87
Total - - -	317	314	323	248	232	164	145	132	113	82	87	40	31	15	9	11	1	2	1	1	329	372	331	288	346	248	201	197	187	123	149	79	80	29	38	18	29	4	2	1	2,268	3,051	5,319
Saint Peter, Basseterre -	169	145	142	102	76	56	44	43	52	49	36	13	13	4	7	1	3	–	–	1	137	134	119	92	88	69	77	55	48	33	45	13	24	5	15	3	1	1	–	–	956	959	1,915
Trinity, Palmetto Point -	61	81	71	49	34	39	31	22	23	21	16	5	9	6	3	1	1	–	–	–	76	62	51	33	46	52	30	41	18	21	20	11	19	2	5	1	1	2	–	–	473	491	964
Saint Thomas, Middle Island -	160	132	119	108	102	65	46	39	53	38	13	15	20	10	3	7	1	1	–	–	163	134	116	99	96	84	69	54	61	45	38	26	38	18	7	8	3	–	2	1	932	1,062	1,994
Saint Ann, Sandy Point -	221	189	185	169	120	105	75	76	69	56	40	29	27	13	14	8	6	–	–	1	217	234	218	154	193	131	107	121	95	71	80	38	40	23	21	8	10	2	2	1	1,403	1,766	3,169
Saint Paul, Capisterre - -	111	108	98	66	58	54	34	49	34	42	26	8	19	7	9	3	8	1	–	–	113	118	102	69	77	55	49	46	42	37	31	18	22	8	15	9	6	–	2	4	735	823	1,558
Saint John, Capisterre -	200	158	152	105	101	73	54	50	57	38	49	35	36	10	21	4	9	2	–	1	194	144	121	127	114	96	80	72	54	50	51	28	54	15	23	6	13	4	1	1	1,155	1,248	2,403
Christ Church, Nichola Town -	117	138	107	79	59	47	53	36	47	21	29	16	17	5	6	2	–	1	–	–	130	136	114	75	62	67	68	54	36	29	43	14	25	11	9	2	4	–	2	–	780	881	1,661
Saint Mary, Cayon - -	126	126	115	103	80	52	29	44	48	34	20	19	11	6	6	2	2	–	–	–	124	118	141	94	104	53	48	52	49	34	41	20	21	8	13	3	6	2	3	1	823	935	1,758
	1,482	1,391	1,312	1,029	862	655	511	491	496	381	316	180	183	76	78	39	31	7	1	4	1,483	1,452	1,313	1,031	1,126	855	729	692	590	443	498	247	323	119	146	58	73	15	14	9	9,525	11,216	20,741

TABLE II.—OCCUPATIONS.

Total Population according to Census - - - - - 20,741
Children under 10 Years of Age, the Aged and Disabled - - - - 6,352

Total Persons classified - 14,389

[*Census taken 1st January* 1855.]

| | MALES. | | |

TABLE III.—PLACE OF BIRTH

Of the Total Population - - - 20,741.

[*Census taken 1st January* 1855.]

	Saint Christopher.	Africa.	Madeira.	WEST INDIAN COLONIES.																							EUROPE.							AMERICA.	
				Anguilla.	Antigua.	Barbadoes.	Berbice.	Bermuda.	Demerara.	Dominica.	Grenada.	Jamaica.	Montserrat.	Nevis.	Saba.	Saint Bartholomew.	Saint Croix.	Saint Eustatius.	Saint John.	Saint Lucia.	Saint Martin.	Saint Thomas.	Saint Vincent.	Tortola.	Trinidad.	England.	Scotland.	Ireland.	Denmark.	France.	Germany.	Spain.	British America.	United States.
Saint George Basseterre:																																			
Town - - -	4,066	27	38	71	20	18	2	1	8	7	1	4	5	68	–	34	4	9	1	1	103	6	3	17	16	45	14	2	–	–	3	1	1	1
Estates - -	514	31	25	24	2	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	6	–	–	2	1	–	–	7	–	1	–	–	15	7	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Hospital - -	68	8	2	4	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	1	–	–	–	–	2	–	–	–	–	2	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Total - -	4,648	66	65	99	22	18	2	1	8	7	1	4	5	74	–	35	6	10	1	1	112	6	4	17	16	62	21	2	–	–	3	1	1	1
Saint Peter, Basseterre - -	1,805	9	50	5	1	2	–	–	–	–	–	1	–	20	–	–	–	–	–	–	4	–	1	1	–	14	1	1	–	–	–	–	–	–
Trinity, Palmetto Point - -	846	40	29	10	2	2	–	–	–	1	1	–	–	10	–	1	–	1	–	–	1	–	–	–	–	16	–	1	–	–	–	–	1	1
Saint Thomas, Middle Island -	1,870	44	7	18	1	12	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	9	–	6	–	2	–	1	6	–	–	7	–	10	1	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Saint Ann, Sandy Point - -	2,937	43	22	48	4	11	–	1	1	–	1	–	5	4	4	8	–	14	–	–	49	–	–	1	–	13	2	1	–	–	–	–	–	–
Saint Paul, Capisterre - -	1,490	23	3	9	8	2	–	–	–	–	–	–	1	4	–	–	–	7	–	–	3	–	–	–	–	7	1	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Saint John, Capisterre - -	2,314	27	1	1	2	1	–	–	–	–	–	–	16	6	–	1	–	1	–	–	2	–	–	1	–	20	1	4	1	–	1	–	–	–
Christ Church, Nichola Town -	1,630	12	–	1	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	1	–	–	–	–	–	–	1	–	–	–	–	12	–	1	–	–	3	–	–	–
Saint Mary, Cayon - -	1,712	12	7	3	–	4	–	–	1	–	–	–	–	1	–	1	1	1	–	–	1	–	–	1	1	7	3	–	–	3	–	–	–	–
	19,252	276	184	194	40	52	2	2	10	8	3	5	27	129	4	52	7	36	1	2	179	6	8	28	17	161	30	10	1	3	7	1	2	2

TABLE IV.

ARRANGEMENT in CLASSES of the POPULATION in the several PARISHES

[*Census taken 1st January* 1855.]

SAINT GEORGE, BASSETERRE.

Town.

Males :—			
Occupied		1,156	
Children		534	
Aged		10	
Disabled		13	
No Occupation		200	
			1,913
Females :—			
Occupied		1,492	
Children		601	
Aged		43	
Disabled		10	
No Occupation		538	
			2,684
			4,597

Estates.

Males :—			
Occupied		219	
Children		86	
Aged		5	
Disabled		4	
No Occupation		4	
			318
Females :—			
Occupied		195	
Children		85	
Aged		7	
Disabled		3	
No Occupation		27	
			317
			635

Hospital.

Males :—			
Occupied		18	
Children		11	
Aged		1	
Disabled		4	
No Occupation		3	
			37
Females :—			
Occupied		13	
Children		15	
Aged		4	
Disabled		13	
No Occupation		5	
			50
			87
Total Population, Saint George, Basseterre			5,319

SAINT PETER, BASSETERRE.

Males :—			
Occupied		561	
Children		314	
Aged		2	
Disabled		9	
No Occupation		70	
			956
Females :—			
Occupied		523	
Children		271	
Aged		5	
Disabled		12	
No Occupation		148	
			959
Total Population, Saint Peter, Basseterre			1,915

TRINITY, PALMETTO POINT.

Males :—			
Occupied		270	
Children		142	
Aged		2	
Disabled		2	
No Occupation		57	
			473
Females :—			
Occupied		268	
Children		138	
Aged		4	
Disabled		5	
No Occupation		76	
			491
Total Population, Trinity, Palmetto Point			964

ST. THOMAS, MIDDLE ISLAND.

Males :—			
Occupied		557	
Children		292	
Aged		9	
Disabled		5	
No Occupation		69	
			932
Females :—			
Occupied		615	
Children		297	
Aged		14	
Disabled		11	
No Occupation		125	
			1,062
Total Population, St. Thomas, Middle Island			1,994

SAINT ANN, SANDY POINT.

Males :—			
Occupied		878	
Children		410	
Aged		15	
Disabled		15	
No Occupation		85	
			1,403
Females :—			
Occupied		1,053	
Children		451	
Aged		23	
Disabled		30	
No Occupation		209	
			1,766
Total Population, Saint Ann, Sandy Point			3,169

SAINT PAUL, CAPISTERRE.

Males :—			
Occupied		463	
Children		219	
Aged		12	
Disabled		9	
No Occupation		32	
			735
Females :—			
Occupied		423	
Children		231	
Aged		21	
Disabled		10	
No Occupation		138	
			823
Total Population, Saint Paul, Capisterre			1,558

ST. KITTS.

TABLE IV.—*continued.*

SAINT JOHN, CAPISTERRE.

Males :—		
Occupied	663	
Children	358	
Aged	16	
Disabled	25	
No Occupation	93	
		1,155
Females :—		
Occupied	682	
Children	338	
Aged	25	
Disabled	42	
No Occupation	161	
		1,248
Total Population, Saint John, Capisterre		2,403

CHRIST CHURCH, NICHOLA TOWN.

Males :—		
Occupied	449	
Children	255	
Aged	3	
Disabled	19	
No Occupation	54	
		780
Females :—		
Occupied	422	
Children	266	
Aged	8	
Disabled	32	
No Occupation	153	
		881
Total Population, Christ Church, Nichola Town		1,661

SAINT MARY, CAYON.

Males :—		
Occupied	511	
Children	252	
Aged	4	
Disabled	6	
No Occupation	50	
		823
Females :—		
Occupied	524	
Children	242	
Aged	15	
Disabled	17	
No Occupation	137	
		935
Total Population, Saint Mary, Cayon		1,758
TOTAL POPULATION		20,741

RECAPITULATION

	Occupied.	Children under 10 Years.	Aged.	Disabled.	No Occupation.	Total Population.
Males	5,745	2,873	79	111	717	9,525
Females	6,210	2,935	169	185	1,717	11,216
Total	11,955	5,808	248	296	2,434	20,741

TABLE V.

AREA, POPULATION, and HOUSES of the various ESTATES and VILLAGES in the several PARISHES.

[*Census taken 1st January* 1855.]

SAINT GEORGE, BASSETERRE.

	AREA.		POPULATION.			HOUSES.	
	Total.	Cane Land.	Male.	Female.	Total.	Inhabited.	Empty.
Buckley's	187	163	26	29	55	18	—
Buckley's Village	—	—	17	25	42	13	3
Camp	20	13	8	4	12	1	1
College	200	164	27	29	56	14	—
Dewar's	205	174	43	28	71	11	2
Diamond	98	87	14	12	26	5	1
Fort	—	—	4	3	7	1	—
Frigate Bay	182	129	10	8	18	4	1
Greenland	164	135	13	10	23	5	—
La Gueritte	119	95	13	14	27	6	—
Lime Kiln	45	45	3	5	8	1	—
Lucas'	198	118	—	—	—	—	—
Mornes, Earle's	48	30					
Mornes, Rawlins'	233	128	8	4	12	3	3
Mornes, Romney's	94	88					
Olivees	285	152	21	23	44	6	2
Pond	166	132	5	7	12	4	3
Salt Pond	2,315	250	—	—	—	—	41
Shadwell	160	108	66	69	135	34	—
Springfield	27	27	3	—	3	1	—
Taylor's and Lozack's	232	213	37	47	84	19	6
Town of Basseterre Pasture, Waste, &c.	2,149	—	—	—	—	—	—
	7,127	2,248	318	317	635	146	63

SAINT PETER, BASSETERRE.

	AREA.		POPULATION.			HOUSES.	
	Total.	Cane Land.	Male.	Female.	Total.	Inhabited.	Empty.
Bayford's and Blois'	173	111	49	43	92	20	3
Canada Estate and James' Village	609	330	55	68	123	23	1
College Village (Upper)	—	—	30	28	58	15	3
Canarees and Greathead's	817	318	28	24	52	12	—
Douglas'	201	183	180	192	372	72	20
Fancy	132	52	10	7	17	4	—
Fountain	185	110	19	21	40	7	7
Frigate Bay	74	27	—	—	—	—	—
Golden Rock	149	131	47	63	110	26	1
Kitt Stoddart's	10	—	53	57	110	23	3
Lucas'	124	97	11	10	21	5	2
Mardenbro'	87	68	49	48	97	18	4
Milliken's	266	154	46	50	96	19	2
Monkey Hill	136	48	150	146	296	51	10
Needsmust	226	166					
Penny-tenny	186	127	85	66	151	39	3
Clay Hill	133	103					
Priddie Morne's	136	129					
Ogee	101	68	30	29	59	14	—
Parry's	209	174	50	34	84	16	3
Parry's Jib Village	—	—	12	25	37	5	2
Stapleton and Worthington Village	353	190	52	48	100	21	4
West Hope	53	37	—	—	—	—	—
Pasture, Waste, &c.	383	—	—	—	—	—	—
	4,743	2,623	956	959	1,915	390	68

TABLE V.—*continued.*

TRINITY, PALMETTO POINT.

—	AREA.		POPULATION.			HOUSES.	
	Total.	Cane Land.	Male.	Female.	Total.	Inhabited.	Empty.
Abbott's Village	—	—	32	39	71	15	11
Boyd's	371	192	53	49	102	19	8
Camp	177	140	—	—	—	—	—
Challenger's Village	—	—	100	98	198	47	6
Church Village	—	—	25	25	50	11	1
Coffin's Village	—	—	43	55	98	17	3
Connoly's	119	59	2	3	5	1	—
Dewar's	44	44	16	8	24	8	—
Duport's (Cottage)	114	97	4	5	9	3	—
Farm	71	64	—	—	—	—	—
Garvey's	51	35	15	19	34	8	—
Hart's (Retreat)	58	51	22	30	52	9	—
Johnson's	177	101	6	7	13	1	—
Mount Pleasant	166	100	—	—	—	—	—
Ottley's Estate and Village	408	162	32	46	78	22	3
Ottley's Ground	—	—	11	11	22	4	—
Point Town	—	—	24	25	49	11	—
Stone Fort	318	152	23	23	46	7	1
Theroulde's	119	73	6	7	13	1	—
West Farm	209	111	42	29	71	16	—
West Farm Village	—	—	17	12	29	6	—
Pasture, Waste, &c.	1,212	—	—	—	—	—	—
	3,614	1,381	473	491	964	206	33

ST. THOMAS, MIDDLE ISLAND.

—	AREA.		POPULATION.			HOUSES.	
	Total.	Cane Land.	Male.	Female.	Total.	Inhabited.	Empty.
Brimstone Hill	—	—	22	20	42	9	1
Con Phipps	174	136	40	58	98	21	4
Conyers	143	102	35	36	71	15	3
Dewar's (Lynch's)	28	26	—	—	—	—	—
Dry Hill	188	122	9	7	16	2	—
Franks	38	28	—	—	—	—	—
Godwin	512	217	50	41	91	15	3
Halfway Tree	—	—	109	129	238	51	3
Hutchinson's	358	116	10	10	20	4	1
Lambert's	285	162	40	54	94	24	10
Middle Island Village	—	—	77	88	165	34	4
New Guinea	59	—	66	62	128	29	7
Old Road Town	—	—	317	384	701	158	28
Phipps (Chalk Farm)	112	—	—	—	—	—	—
Romney's	385	134	70	74	144	35	9
Vambelle	454	208	2	3	5	1	1
Verchild's	385	216	26	34	60	14	3
Walk	342	288	—	—	—	—	—
Williams	112	78	—	—	—	—	—
Wingfield	714	140	59	62	121	26	4
Pasture, Waste, &c.	1,782	—	—	—	—	—	—
	6,071	1,973	932	1,062	1,994	438	81

TABLE V.—*continued.*

SAINT ANN, SANDY POINT.

	AREA.		POPULATION.			HOUSES.	
	Total.	Cane Land.	Male.	Female.	Total.	Inhabited.	Empty.
Belle Tête	112	77	3	6	9	2	—
Bottom	143	127	19	19	38	10	—
Bourke's (Prospect Hill)	171	140	13	19	32	2	—
Burt's	275	193	7	4	11	2	—
Cranstoun's	447	367	96	91	187	38	—
Farm and Pinnell's	593	353	26	34	60	11	1
Garnier's	44	40	—	—	—	—	—
Guichard's	29	28	—	—	—	—	—
Leigh's	97	93	—	—	—	—	—
Orton's	78	50	—	—	—	—	—
Payne's (Sir Gillies)	237	184	18	17	35	7	1
Payne's	123	88	9	4	13	1	—
Pump	73	64	1	3	4	1	—
Sandy Point Town	—	—	1,199	1,554	2,753	647	78
Somersall's	261	214	12	15	27	4	3
Pasture, Waste, &c.	466	—	—	—	—	—	—
	3,149	2,018	1,403	1,766	3,169	725	83

SAINT PAUL, CAPISTERRE.

	AREA.		POPULATION.			HOUSES.	
	Total.	Cane Land.	Male.	Female.	Total.	Inhabited.	Empty.
Belmont	421	316	19	23	42	7	—
Brotherson's	276	205	22	30	52	13	—
Browne's	86	72	7	5	12	2	—
Convent	64	49	9	10	19	5	1
Fahie's	248	152	2	7	9	3	—
Fenton's	109	—	40	41	81	14	1
Glebe	—	—	12	17	29	7	—
Grove	73	56	91	113	204	46	2
Helden's	179	134	51	51	102	19	8
Leigh's	88	83	47	33	80	9	—
Mount Pleasant	266	180	50	65	115	20	—
Nesbitt's and Tullaboddy's	134	124	—	—	—	—	—
Trant's	111	—	5	5	10	1	—
White Flag (Newton's)	100	93	91	106	197	45	18
White Gate	132	116	117	127	244	51	2
Willett's and Johnson's	511	384	172	190	362	81	17
Pasture, Waste, &c.	767	—	—	—	—	—	—
	3,565	1,964	735	823	1,558	323	49

TABLE V.—*continued.*

SAINT JOHN, CAPISTERRE.

	AREA.		POPULATION.			HOUSES.	
	Total.	Cane Land.	Male.	Female.	Total.	Inhabited.	Empty.
Belle Vue	113	88	44	58	102	16	2
Bethel	—	—	4	7	11	3	—
Bevon Island	83	53	7	9	16	2	—
Bramble	242	90	58	66	124	28	—
Cifton's	130	109	7	8	15	4	1
Colquhoun's	126	106	87	64	151	28	3
Dieppe Bay Town	—	—	158	176	334	64	26
Dieppe Bay Estate	163	127	18	25	43	7	—
Estridge's (Lower)	146	109	14	25	39	9	—
Geagan's	139	121	28	20	48	8	2
Gibbons'	164	136	55	60	115	26	13
Harris'	239	129	22	16	38	9	—
Hope	287	108	24	30	54	11	—
Houston's	167	133	35	27	62	11	—
Lavingston's	289	183	31	29	60	9	3
Lynch's	185	125	49	66	115	23	—
Mills' (Gerald's)	74	57	15	16	31	6	—
Mercer's	150	—	—	—	—	—	—
Parson's	342	210	135	158	293	68	—
Pogson's	342	123	46	49	95	21	1
Profit	202	137	63	44	107	22	4
Saddler's	346	176	86	115	201	38	5
Stone Castle and Fuilleteau	307	238	113	122	235	38	4
Tabernacle	—	—	56	58	114	25	1
Pasture, Waste, &c.	1,916	—	—	—	—	—	—
	6,152	2,558	1,155	1,248	2,403	476	65

CHRIST CHURCH, NEW TOWN.

	AREA.		POPULATION.			HOUSES.	
	Total.	Cane Land.	Male.	Female.	Total.	Inhabited.	Empty.
Baker's	129	104	64	89	153	32	7
Bourryau's	371	256	72	78	150	29	—
Estridge's Hill	502	328	72	63	135	33	—
Estridge's Hutchisson's Village	—	—	86	95	181	36	2
Lodge	29	22	—	—	—	—	—
Mansion	180	106	77	104	181	39	—
Mills'	225	162	77	83	160	35	9
Phillip's and Molyneux	560	238	247	246	493	90	—
Rose Hill	177	75	—	—	—	—	—
Spooner's	400	112	—	—	—	—	—
Woodley's	335	249	85	123	208	41	10
Pasture, Waste, &c.	1,089	—	—	—	—	—	—
	3,997	1,652	780	881	1,661	335	28

TABLE V.—*continued.*

SAINT MARY, CAYON.

	AREA.		POPULATION.			HOUSES.	
	Total.	Cane Land.	Male.	Female.	Total.	Inhabited.	Empty.
Cayon Village - -	—	—	118	129	247	53	3
Cunningham's - -	436	223	45	56	101	23	1
Dalzell's - - -	192	92	12	16	28	5	—
Dupuy's (Hermitage) -	227	169	18	19	37	8	—
Dupuy's Village - -	—	—	40	62	102	14	6
Grange - - -	164	109	58	70	128	20	—
Green Hill - - -	403	259	88	95	183	42	—
Key - - -	113	104	3	6	9	2	—
Lodge and Spring - -	366	198	118	118	236	38	—
Matthew's - -	614	455	46	67	113	23	2
Matthew's Village - -	—	—	89	96	185	33	12
Ottley's - - -	204	111	44	41	85	15	2
Ottley's Village - -	—	—	30	40	70	13	4
Pogson's - - -	103	77	22	17	39	7	—
Spooner's - - -	232	144	28	31	59	13	—
Watkin's Island - -	95	28	—	—	—	—	—
White's - - -	204	109	64	72	136	23	—
Pasture, Waste, &c. - -	243	—	—	—	—	—	—
	3,596	2,078	823	935	1,758	332	30

TABLE VI.

RECAPITULATION of TABLES IV. and V.

[*Census taken 1st January* 1855.]

—	AREA.		HOUSES.		POPULATION.									Total Population.
								Permanently Disabled.						
	Total Acreage.	Cane Land.	Inhabited.	Empty.	Occupied.	Unoccupied.	Children under 10 Years.	Old Age.	Accident.	Insanity.	Leprosy.	Incurable Disease.	Total Disabled.	
Saint George, Basseterre:														
Town - -	7,127	2,248	1,096	204	2,648	738	1,135	53	3	4	2	14	76	4,597
Estates - -			146	66	414	31	171	12	3	—	2	2	19	635
Hospital - -			1	—	31	8	26	5	—	5	—	12	22	87
Total -	7,127	2,248	1,243	270	3,093	777	1,332	70	6	9	4	28	117	5,319
Saint Peter, Basseterre	4,743	2,623	390	68	1,084	218	585	7	4	1	5	11	28	1,915
Trinity, Palmetto Point	3,614	1,381	206	33	538	133	280	6	—	—	2	5	13	964
Saint Thomas, Middle Island - -	6,071	1,973	438	81	1,172	194	589	23	2	—	5	9	39	1,994
Saint Ann, Sandy Point	3,149	2,018	725	83	1,931	294	861	38	2	1	10	32	83	3,169
Saint Paul, Capisterre -	3,565	1,964	323	49	886	170	450	33	2	1	—	16	52	1,558
Saint John, Capisterre -	6,152	2,558	476	65	1,345	254	696	41	6	1	12	48	108	2,403
Christ Church, Nichola Town - - -	3,997	1,652	335	28	871	207	521	11	—	—	10	41	62	1,661
Saint Mary, Cayon -	3,596	2,078	332	30	1,035	187	494	19	3	—	5	15	42	1,758
	42,014	18,495	4,468	707	11,955	2,434	5,808	248	25	13	53	205	544	20,741

TABLE VII.

POPULATION in the several PARISHES, according to CENSUS of 1844 and of 1855.

[*Census taken 1st January 1855.*]

	Population, Census 1844.	Population, Census 1855.
Saint George, Basseterre :—		
Town - - - -	4,693	4,597
Estates - - - -	1,614	635
Hospital - - - -	—	87
Total - -	6,307	5,319
Saint Peter, Basseterre - - -	2,372	1,915
Trinity, Palmetto Point - -	1,118	964
Saint Thomas, Middle Island - -	2,426	1,994
Saint Ann, Sandy Point - -	3,305	3,169
Saint Paul, Capisterre - - -	1,596	1,558
Saint John, Capisterre - - -	2,180	2,403
Christ Church, Nichola Town - -	1,828	1,661
Saint Mary, Cayon - - -	2,045	1,758
	23,177	20,741

TABLE VIII.

INCREASE and DECREASE of TOTAL POPULATION of 1844 to 1st January 1855.

[*Census taken 1st January 1855.*]

Population according to Census, June 1844 - - - - -			23,177
Immigrants—			
From England			
1845, May - - - - - -	80		
„ July - - - - -	129		
		209	
From Madeira			
1846, May - - - - -	81		
1847, July - - - - -	69		
		150	
Liberated Africans			
1849 April, Sierra Leone - - -	95		
1850, March, St. Helena - - -	130		
		225	
			584
Baptisms from June 1844 to December 31st, 1854 - -		9,952	
Burials do do not including Deaths from Cholera - - -		6,915	
Excess of Births over Deaths - - -			3,037
			26,798
Population according to Census, January 1855 - - -		20,741	
Deaths from Cholera to 31st December 1854 - - -		3,830	
			24,571
Decrease attributable partly to incorrectness of Census taken in 1844, and partly to Emigration - - - -			2,227

Appendix 3 in No. 25.

NUMBER of CONVICTS sentenced to Death or to Imprisonment, or Imprisonment with Hard Labour, during the Years 1852, 1853, and 1854.

CRIMES.

	1852.	1853.	1854.
1st. Against the Person:			
Murder.—Executed	—	—	1
Culpable homicide	—	1	1
Assault with intent to murder	—	—	—
Rape or assault with intent	—	—	—
Unnatural offences or attempts	—	—	—
Assault with intent to do grievous bodily harm	10	6	9
Assaults	39	38	32
	49	45	43
2d. Against Property with Violence:			
House, &c., breaking with intent to steal and theft	5	—	—
Robbery	—	3	—
	5	3	—
3d. Against Property without Violence:			
Cattle, horse, and sheep stealing, theft or receipt of stolen goods	173	53	63
Frauds, embezzlement, vagrant act, &c.	2	1	3
	175	54	66
4th. Malicious Offences against Property:			
Arson	1	—	—
Other malicious injuries of property	16	3	7
Forgery	—	—	—
	17	3	7
5th. Other Offences:			
Abusive language	12	7	13
Aiding prisoners to escape	—	—	—
Conspiracy	—	—	—
Contempt of court	—	—	1
Contract act	9	1	3
Cruelty to animals	—	1	3
Disorderly conduct	66	33	24
Exposing person	3	5	—
Game laws	—	—	2
Merchant Seaman's Act	5	12	—
Perjury	4	1	—
Pound breach	—	1	2
Resisting police	1	—	3
Revenue laws	1	1	—
Sanitary laws	—	1	6
Unauthorized detention of property	1	—	—
	102	63	57
TOTAL CONVICTIONS	348	168	173

NEVIS.

No. 21.

Copy of a DESPATCH from Governor General Mackintosh to the Right Hon. Lord John Russell.

(No. 42.)

Leeward Islands, Antigua,
May 22, 1855.

My Lord, (Received June 16, 1855.)

I have the honour to transmit to your Lordship, herein enclosed, in duplicate, the "Blue Book" of Nevis for 1854, together with a copy of the Despatch in which it was forwarded to me by the President administering the government.

Amid a good deal that is discouraging in this Report, it is satisfactory to observe that, in spite of the economical results of the late inroad of epidemic cholera, the revenue has maintained itself, and even shows a tendency to increase.

It will be seen to be the enormously disproportionate establishment—which, for instance, includes, for a population of about 9,000 souls, the services of two judges—that is crushing the resources of this little community. The proper remedy for this evil would evidently be an incorporate union of Nevis with her more important neighbour St. Kitts, the capital of which, Basseterre, is placed at about the centre of the area of both islands; but proposals to such effect have never met with any favour in the Legislature of the smaller dependency.

Apart from a step of the kind just referred to, I have presumed Mr. Seymour rightly to indicate the direction in which improvements in the existing fiscal system of the island in which he is directly interested are to be looked for when he invites the Council and Assembly to a consideration of the merits, as applicable to a locality situated as is Nevis, geographically in connexion with her wealthier sister, St. Kitts, of direct taxation.

I have, &c.
(Signed) R. J. MACKINTOSH.

The Right Hon. Lord John Russell,
&c. &c. &c.

In No. 21.

Copy of a Despatch from Mr. President Seymour to Governor General Mackintosh.

(No. 21.)

Sir, Nevis, March 15, 1855.

I have the honour to forward the "Blue Book" of Nevis for the year 1854.

2. My service in the island having only extended over a portion of the year which has lately elapsed, I do not feel called upon to furnish any lengthened report on this ocasion.

3. Nevis, which had for some years been almost stationary in the amount of population, revenue, and productions, received a sudden shock by the outbreak of Asiatic cholera towards the beginning of 1854. The Treasury was then drained to meet the expenditure caused by the endeavours to mitigate the ravages of the disease, and by the necessity of burying at the public charge those who fell its victims. The resources in hand were insufficient for these purposes; and when they failed an embarrassing debt had further to be incurred. But the derangement of the finances was not the greatest evil which the cholera inflicted on the island. Nearly one tenth of the population, always too small to press in any way upon the means of subsistence, were carried off, and the colony appeared to be threatened with a disastrous change in its industrial condition.

4. It is satisfactory to have to state, that the anxious previsions of the planters were not realized, as a moderate crop of sugar was taken off without difficulty. Yet this satisfaction is tempered by the reflection that the prompt refilling of

NEVIS.

the ranks of the agricultural labourers must, to a considerable extent, be attributed to a temporary pressure, caused by the circumstance that, while under the dread of infection, the negroes relinquishing their habitual diet of vegetables of almost spontaneous growth, had consumed the pigs and poultry which, in ordinary times, they keep but for sale. The deprivation of this source of income compelled many persons to abandon, for a season, a life of idleness, and return to labour in the cane fields.

5. While, therefore, one cannot but rejoice that no disturbance has yet been created in the labour market, it is difficult to resist the conclusion that a considerable number of the community were, as no doubt a lesser proportion still are, habitually unproductive of any articles of commerce. And the buoyancy of the revenue, which has increased with a diminished population, leads one to believe that the deceased, or those who have since taken their places, bore, heretofore, no share of the public burthens.

6. It is but too clear to me, that many persons contribute nothing towards the revenue. The dwellings of the negroes who, giving up the cultivation of the sugar cane, have retired to abandoned portions of estates, and exist upon the proceeds of the increase of their stock, are often, I regret to say, miserable to a degree which I have rarely seen in any of the other West Indian Islands. No articles of domestic comfort are to be found therein, and the neat furniture of the Antigua negro houses is here exclusively confined to the habitations of the more industrious.

Yet, in the worst of these hovels, as we learn but too often from the records of the Courts of Justice, large sums of money—the profits of former hours of industry—are hid in the ground or in the thatch to tempt the thief; and, as recent experience has shown, to convert the thief into an assassin.

7. I throw upon the present fiscal system the blame of thus causing a proportion of the population, by withdrawing from beneficial labour, to halt in the progress of civilization; or, I fear it is more correct to say, to retrograde towards African darkness. The seeing naked boys tending cattle on the mountain side reminds one more of life in Kaffraria than of the comparatively advanced domestic condition of the negroes, who, in the lower lands, work for wages.

8. The practice followed here, in imitation of larger societies, of making every article pay an import duty on its introduction to this small and impoverished island, keeps the imports down to the supply of the present very limited demand. That demand might, I believe, be immensely augmented by the mere exhibition of articles of European manufacture in the shops; but it will not increase so long as the negro sees no immediate means of obtaining what he wants. Indeed, I cannot see how, under the present system, he is ever to form a just conception of the value of his money, and of the comforts—even luxuries—which it might procure.

9. There is no shop in this island in which a couple of the peasantry, desirous of furnishing a small house on their marriage, would get what they require; consequently, when such an event is in contemplation by persons anxious to preserve a moderate respectability, they have to proceed at considerable inconvenience to some other island to make their purchases.

10. The uncertainty of the supply, and the great fluctuations in the price of flour, necessarily incident to the condition of so small a market, have prevented the lower classes from acquiring the taste for bread and other wholesome food; therefore the reliance for their subsistence is principally thrown by them upon the fruits and vegetables of indigenous growth, which are procurable without money, and almost without exertion.

11. I have, with a view to the removal of the evils of idleness and a carelessness of the decencies of life, recommended to the Legislative Houses the adoption of a system of direct taxation which would enable us to dispense altogether with customs duties. Should they be pleased to adopt this suggestion, we may anticipate that Nevis, with its great natural advantages for trade, will become the depôt of many articles sent out in search of a market.

Emulation would, I think, be created amongst the lower classes for the possession of the productions of European industry. A new idea of the value of money would stimulate to exertion. Free communication with other places would probably cure the evils fostered by the present system of isolation. An increase in the number of visitors would be likely to create a sense of shame in

the idle buriers of coin, and induce them to clothe themselves properly, and to replace the hut of plantain or palm leaves by a healthier habitation.

12. The revenue of 1854 shows an increase of 808*l.* 14*s.* 10*d.* over that of the preceding year; yet so large have been the cholera expenses, that the salaries of the public officers have not been paid since the 30th June. Fortunately, however, for them, these gentlemen have, with but one or two exceptions, private resources in land or profession which render them in some measure independent.

13. The instalment and interest due on the loan from Her Majesty's Government have been paid with punctuality.

14. The most important work in legislation has been the passing of an Act to amend the Act of the reign of Queen Anne, under which the House of Assembly was constituted. Under the Act of Queen Anne it was always in the power of one third of the members, by staying away, to prevent the formation of a House, whenever they were opposed to any measure proposed to be brought before them. The object attained by the amendment has been the reduction of the number of the quorum required for the passing of bills, within a limit which renders it impossible that the public business be impeded any longer in this manner by a factious minority.

15. An Act to provide a Government House, as a residence for the officer administering the government, was passed with a limitation to the term of three years. A consideration of the present financial embarrassments, together with other circumstances, have induced me to refrain from drawing on the Local Treasury for the rent thus voted. It has now been intimated that the Secretary of State cannot submit the Act for Her Majesty's approval with its present limitation to the term of three years.

16. Several other Acts of an ordinary nature have also been passed.

17. The increase in the number of deaths is to be attributed to the operation of cholera. The increase in the number of marriages is also partially to be ascribed to the same cause. The near prospect of death lent weight to the heretofore lightly heeded exhortations of the clergy against concubinage.

18. The state of the schools reflects great credit on the ministers of the Church of England, and to the full as much so on the Wesleyan missionaries; particularly as no assistance is granted from the colonial funds. If I might venture to find a fault where there is so much to praise, I would say that the education afforded is hardly common and practical enough. It is somewhat startling to hear the hardest words of the Linnæan vocabulary—names belonging to the natural history, not of these islands, but of Australia or Siberia—coming from lips which have nothing to tell you of the commonest methods by which mechanics in industrious lands earn their bread.

19. It struck me also as peculiar to see that children, like those above alluded to, born without a prospect of inheriting property of any kind, are taught in their very early years, in this place of small trade, to draw out imaginary bills of exchange. This seems like beginning at the wrong end. It would appear to be more regular to begin by teaching them some means of giving future weight and value to their signatures.

20. No improvements have been made in agriculture during the last year. The planters have, however, the prospect of a rather more than average harvest before them, if the supply of labour does not fail.

21. Some alterations have been introduced into the prison regulations which have already proved of benefit. Amongst other changes has been that of regulating the diet of the prisoners according to the amount of laborious exertion to which they are exposed, and thus endeavouring to create in their minds the association of labour with food, and of inaction with comparative abstinence.

22. It is with pleasure that I point out to your Excellency that the almshouse, and the hospital with which it is connected, are maintained at a charge of only 150*l.* a year. This is the total expense to which the colony is put for the relief of the diseased and infirm poor. With the great natural resources of Nevis, and the smallness of its population, it is almost unnecessary for me to say that no able-bodied person is dependant on the public for support.

I have, &c.

(Signed) FREDERICK SEYMOUR.

Governor General Mackintosh,
&c. &c. &c.

VIRGIN ISLANDS.

No. 22.

VIRGIN ISLANDS.

No. 22.

Copy of a DESPATCH from Governor General Mackintosh to the Right Hon. Lord John Russell.

(No. 43.)

Leeward Islands, Antigua, May 22, 1855.
(Received June 16, 1855.)

My Lord,

I have the honour to transmit to your Lordship herein enclosed, in duplicate, the "Blue Book" of the Virgin Islands for the year 1854, together with a copy of the Despatch in which it has been forwarded to me by the president administering the government.

The effects of the grievous epidemic disease which was prevailing at the commencement of the year made themselves felt throughout its whole course, making the period under consideration one of great pressure on this already much impoverished little community. The public accounts have been in consequence involved in some intricacy; but, with the assistance of Mr. Kortright's clear statement, it is hoped that they will be sufficiently intelligible.

The past year will, I trust, be eventually shown to have been an altogether exceptional one in the annals of the Islands; and I am led, in so far as it is reasonable to speculate at all as to the future in political matters, to indulge in a great measure in such an anticipation by my cordial agreement with the president in his expectation that great advantage may fairly be expected to result from the going into operation of the simple and compact form of government which, with the sanction of the Crown, they have lately adopted. For it will be admitted, I think, by those whose service has lain in tropical dependencies to partake almost of the character of an enouncement of an axiomatic truth to assert that commonly in them the despatch of public business is advanced in an inverse ratio to the number of the parties who participate in its transaction.

I have, &c.
(Signed) R. J. MACKINTOSH.

The Right Hon. Lord John Russell,
&c. &c. &c.

Encl. in No. 22.

Enclosure in No. 22.

Copy of a Despatch from C. H. Kortright, Esq., to Governor General Mackintosh.

(No. 11.)

Government House, Tortola,
March 9, 1855.

Sir,

I have the honour to transmit to your Excellency, in duplicate, the Blue Book for the past year, 1854.

2. In order to lay before you a clear exposition of the financial condition of the colony at the end of 1854 it will be necessary to enter into somewhat lengthy details, and to take a retrospective view of the state of the Revenue and Expenditure at the close of the year 1853.

3. I have separated the amount of the loan from the actual receipts, viewing it as an extraneous matter, and not strictly connected with the revenue.

4. *Revenue and Expenditure.*

Revenue for 1853.

	£	s.	d.
Amount in Treasury on the 1st January 1853 - -	3	17	8
Revenue collected - - - - -	1,370	0	1¾
Total amount at the disposal of the colony for 1853 -	£1,373	17	9¾

Expenditure.

	£	s.	d.
Amount paid on account of fixed expenditure and miscellaneous civil services	1,372	3	9¾
Amount due on 31st December 1853, principally to public officers	353	18	2¾
	£1,726	2	0½

Arrears at the close of 1853.

	£	s.	d.
For 1852	1,230	6	4¼
For 1853	353	18	2¾
Total arrears	£1,584	4	7

5. This large amount of arrears was due at the end of the year 1853, principally to public officers, who consented to receive the sum of 692*l.* 9*s.* 0¾*d.* in liquidation of their claims, and the sum of 700*l.* was raised for that purpose by a loan from Mr. R. G. Pedder. The arrangements were carried into effect in March 1854, when it was found that it would not be necessary to make use of more than 500*l.* of the loan, the local revenue being in a condition to furnish the balance, viz., 192*l.* 9*s.* 0¾*d.* 200*l.* were returned to the lender, thereby reducing the debt to 500*l.*

6. Revenue for 1854.

	£	s.	d.
Amount in Treasury on 1st January 1854	1	14	0
Amount collected	1,645	3	11
	£1,646	17	11

Expenditure.

	£	s.	d.
Paid on account of fixed expenditure and miscellaneous civil services	1,550	13	9
First instalment of debt of 500*l.*, including interest	70	9	2
Arrears of salaries to public officers for 1854	217	7	11½
	1,838	10	10½
Less in Treasury on 31st December 1854	25	15	0
Total expenditure	£1,812	15	10½

Recapitulation.

	Revenue. £	s.	d.	Expenditure. £	s.	d.
1853	1,373	17	9¾	1,726	2	0½
1854	1,646	17	11	1,812	15	10½

Amount due on 31st December 1854.

	£	s.	d.
To public officers	217	7	11½
To R. G. Pedder on loan	450	18	0
	£668	5	11½

7. The revenue of 1854 exceeded that of 1853 by 273*l.* 0*s.* 1¼*d.*, owing to the unusually large auction returns from the sale of wrecked property. In other respects there is little difference in the amounts collected in each year.

8. The expenditure also exceeds that of 1853 by 86*l.* 13*s.* 10*d.*, but it must be borne in mind that the sum of 192*l.* 9*s.* 0¾*d.* was paid out of the colonial

VIRGIN ISLANDS.

chest on account of arrears of 1853, that 70*l.* 9*s.* 2*d.* have been disbursed on account of the loan of 500*l.*, that the gaol has undergone extensive repairs, and that heavy expenses were incurred by the severe visitation of epidemic cholera in the commencement of the year.

Legislation.

9. Four acts only have been passed by the Legislature; the Crown law officer's reports have been forwarded with them to your Excellency from time to time.

10. The only Act of any importance is that to "amend the constitution of the Virgin Islands." Many obstacles were thrown in the way of passing this bill; but these having been overcome, the measure appears to be now generally popular, and I have no doubt the results will prove the wisdom of the step taken by the Legislature.

11. There are now several measures in course of preparation, having for their object the reduction of the expenditure, and the better collection of taxes.

Education.

12. I regret that I am not able to report more favourably of the progress in the important work of education. There has been only one school (at Kingstown) in connexion with the church since the riots in August 1853. The attendance is tolerably good, but I should be glad to see the black people show a more earnest desire to avail themselves of the facilities afforded them for educating their children.

13. I have every reason to believe that at least two more schools will be established during the present year.

14. There is one day school in connexion with the Wesleyans and two or three Sunday schools.

Public Works.

15. The only expenditure under this head is the sum of 104*l.* 7*s.*, for repairing the gaol, which is now in good order.

16 In 1853 the court house, the property of the colony, was destroyed by the rioters; since that period a building has been rented for judicial purposes.

17. Referring to a Circular Despatch of Sir George Grey's on the subject of the government houses in the various colonies, I beg to inform you that no residence is found for the officer administering the government, nor is any allowance made to him for house-rent or furniture.

Crime and Gaol.

18. I have great satisfaction in bringing under your notice the great decrease in the number of prisoners confined in the gaol during the year 1854, not more than 26 persons having been committed. There have been no convictions for offences of a serious nature.

General Remarks.

19. The commencement of the year will be long remembered in the Virgin Islands in connexion with epidemic cholera, from the effects of which the colony has not yet recovered. The dread disease raged to a frightful extent from the 25th December 1853 to March 1854. This small colony laboured under disadvantages not exceeded probably in any other colony. The impoverished state of the Treasury, and the poverty generally of the inhabitants, placed an insuperable obstacle in the way of obtaining sufficient medical aid. The only professional gentlemen in the colony were Doctors Girdlestone and Clutterbuck, the latter the military medical officer.

20. These gentlemen exerted themselves to the utmost of their power, but were unable, from the large demand for their services in the town, to afford that immediate and continuous attention to patients in the country which is so urgently required in Asiatic cholera.

21. No locality appeared to be safe from the inroads of the terrible scourge; it raged alike in the valleys, and on the summits of the highest mountains, whither many persons had fled with the vain hope of eluding its pursuit.

22. The mortality was very great, but so intense was the panic, that no register of the number of deaths was kept, even in the town. A large number of strong able-bodied men fell victims to the disease, thereby depriving the colony of an amount of labour now very much needed.

23. It has also had the effect of very materially increasing the pauper list, many aged and infirm persons, having been deprived of all near relations, have been thrown upon the charity of the county for support.

24. The people appear at present to be perfectly quiet and contented. The recollection of the riots in August 1853 seems to be gradually dying away, and I do not apprehend the recurrence of any scenes of a similar nature.

25. The rural inhabitants appear disposed to purchase small portions of land; and I think we may fairly hope that, when attached to the soil, and having a permanent interest in the country, they may become a more laborious and peaceable community.

I have, &c.

Governor Mackintosh, &c. &c. &c.

(Signed) C. H. KORTRIGHT.

DOMINICA.

No. 23.

Copy of a DESPATCH from Governor General Mackintosh to the Right Hon. Lord John Russell.

(No. 12.) Leeward Islands, Antigua, June 16, 1855.

My Lord, (Received July 23, 1855.)

I have the honour to transmit, herewith enclosed to your Lordship in duplicate, the "Blue Book" of Dominica for the year 1854, together with a copy of a Despatch in which it has been forwarded to me by the President administering the government.

2. It is satisfactory to observe that, according to these returns, the value of the exports for the last year exceeded by a considerable amount (78,155*l.* over 58,768*l.*) that of those for the preceding one, while a corresponding excess as to the imports (52,509*l.* over 51,205*l.*) is but a trifling one.

3. The revenue for the year (8,452*l.* 17*s.* 4*d.*), according to the same comparative test, shows but little falling off from that which actually accrued during the year 1853, the produce of some newly imposed taxes, of a direct character as to their incidence, having countervailed in 1854 a considerable deficiency (1,003*l.* 1*s.* 11*d.*) in that of the Import Duties. The expenditure (8,827*l.* 1*s.* 6*d.*), though there appear to be still some outstanding charges, shows a small decrease on that for 1853.

4. It is a promising fact, in connexion with the future prospects of this island, that its establishment continues to be conducted on a scale of expense which, as compared with those of the other islands comprised within this government, is a decidedly moderate one. This being the case, it is further matter of just self-gratulation for the Legislature, that out of such limited means a liberal yearly allowance of 800*l.* has been secured for the support of public education.

5. I regret, however, not to have it in my power to report the taking of any step during the past year towards the liquidation of the debt due by the island to the Imperial Treasury, on account of the advances under the "Hurricane Loan."

I have, &c.

The Right Hon. Lord John Russell, &c. &c. &c.

(Signed) R. J. MACKINTOSH.

Copy of a Despatch from President Bremner to Governor Mackintosh.

(No. 70.) Government House, Roseau, June 13, 1855.

Sir,

I have now the honour of laying before your Excellency the Blue Book for this island, in triplicate, for 1854; and the several matters dwelt upon

DOMINICA.

appearing to have been well considered by the respective departmental officers, any comment of mine may, I hope, be considered unnecessary.

I beg leave to state to your Excellency that the delay in completing the books is not chargeable to the Colonial Secretary, as so far back as January he advertised that all public functionaries should forthwith furnish him with the duties of their offices, in which he has not wholly succeeded.

I would respectfully beg leave to suggest, if on future occasions the Executive might be empowered to demand directly the several papers required, within a certain period, from all concerned?

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. L. BREMNER.

His Excellency
The Governor-in-Chief,
&c. &c.

MAURITIUS.

MAURITIUS.

No. 24.

No. 24.

Copy of a DESPATCH from Major-General Hay to the Right Hon. Sidney Herbert.

(No. 60.)

Mauritius, May 3, 1855.
(Received July 7, 1855.)

Sir,

In obedience to standing instructions, I beg leave to transmit herewith the Blue Book for the year 1854, together with the annual report on the general condition and prospects of the colony.

I have, &c.
(Signed) CHARLES M. HAY,
Major-General.

The Right Hon. Sidney Herbert,
&c. &c.

Encl. in No. 24.

Enclosure in No. 24.

Revenue and Expenditure.

The balance sheet of the year ended 31st December 1854 exhibits an excess of expenditure over revenue of 5,503*l.* 3*s.* 5¾*d.*, the former having been 372,370*l.* 6*s.* 2¼*d.*, and the latter 366,857*l.* 2*s.* 8½*d.*, and this in spite of the addition of sixpence per hundredweight to the export duty on sugar, which took effect on the 1st September, and continued to the end of the year. This measure was rendered necessary in consequence of the lamentable epidemic which reigned during three months of the year, and the high rates of freight for the importation of Coolies.

Imports and Exports.

The imports of the year show an increase on those of 1853, while there is a marked decrease in the value of the exports, owing probably to the great scarcity of shipping outwards. Yet the number of ships which cleared outwards is greater than that of 1853, the numbers being 572 and 512 respectively. This apparent inconsistency is explained by the fact that many of the vessels cleared out, not for Great Britain, but for other destinations where freight was high, and consequently much of the crop remained unshipped at the end of the year. The number of ships entered inwards has also increased from 528 in 1853 to 576 in 1854. The gross exports of the year amounted in value to 1,246,400*l.* 18*s.* 8*d.*, showing a decrease of 196,811*l.* on the preceding year; while the imports aggregated 1,492,788*l.* 7*s.* 3*d.*, showing a nearly commensurate increase on those of 1853.

Population.

The most prominent feature in this return is the very large proportion of deaths to births, which is to be accounted for by the great mortality caused by the cholera, which, between the 25th May and the 14th September, carried off

no less than 8,496 souls, of whom the largest proportion belonged to the ex-apprentice class and their descendants. Beyond this disastrous mortality, I do not observe anything which calls for specific remark from me.

Ecclesiastical.

In the Church of England Establishment there have been considerable changes, the most important of which is the retirement of the senior civil chaplain, Mr. Denny, and the appointment of a Bishop in his room. In the month of June the colony was deprived of the faithful and devoted services of the late second civil chaplain, Mr. Banks, who fell a victim to the ravages of the cholera. Up to the end of the year his successor had not arrived. The Establishment was still further weakened by the departure of the Rev. Mr. Fleming, who resigned his situation as military chaplain before the close of the year; so that, if it had not been for casual assistance gratuitously rendered by two clergymen who were passing a short time in the colony, the regular services of the Church must have suffered serious interruption. There is no other change to note in the ecclesiastical establishments of the island.

During the course of the year two more Capuchin Friars (making four in all) settled at Mahé, in the Seychelles group; but they are not paid by Government, nor are they under the spiritual control of the Roman Catholic Bishop at Mauritius.

The members of the Church of England at Mahé are still without a pastor, owing to the resignation of the Rev. Mr. Delafontaine.

Education.

There is little to add on this head to the reports of preceding years. The numerical attendance at the Royal College maintains the average of former years, as does also that at the different Government schools. I take this opportunity of transmitting a report made by the Special Committee of Council on the minute of Governor Higginson, on the education of Indian children, transmitted by General Sutherland in his report on the Blue Book of last year. This able and interesting document, which was drawn up by the Colonial Secretary, was cordially approved by the Council. It so fully enters into the difficulties of this important question, and so clearly points out what is, in my humble opinion, the true remedy for their correction, that I feel that any remark from me would be superfluous as regards what General Sutherland, in his report above quoted, has aptly characterized as "the real educational difficulties of this colony."

Legislation.

Amongst the ordinances passed during last year which merit remark, I would cite that which provides for the general regulation of the Customs, and the two important ordinances, numbered 15 and 21 respectively, providing regulations for the delivery of newly arrived immigrants, and submitting a redemption tax for the monthly payment of 4*s*., formerly obligatory on new immigrants not under contract of service. Ordinance No. 30 provides for the due preservation of the woods, forests, and rivers, a matter of great and daily increasing moment. And ordinance No. 35 filled a great void in the colonial statute book, by making more ample provision for the care of lunatics. I am happy to be able to say that this latter enactment is operating most beneficially.

Grants of Land.

There have been but three grants, or rather leases, of Crown lands during the year, which do not appear to call for any particular remark.

Public Works.

The financial position of Government was so materially affected by the very large immigration of last year and by the expenditure on account of cholera, that it was necessary to postpone the execution of many public works provided for in the estimates: this will account for so few works of importance being borne on the return. Increased accommodation has, however, under the authority of the Secretary of State, been constructed at the immigration depôt, and the additions lately approved are in course of completion at the civil

MAURITIUS.

hospital. The state of the roads is not altogether satisfactory; but I hope that, with the additions to the Surveyor General's establishment recently authorized, the additional surveillance, which was requisite, will ensure a more exact fulfilment of the duties of the contractors.

Gaols, Prisoners, and Crime.

One great step towards preventing the development of crime has been taken during the last year. I allude to the re-organization of the police force. The new class of Indian constables have been found a valuable adjunct to the force, especially in the repression of vagrancy amongst their countrymen,—an evil which, in addition to the loss it entails on the employer of labour, is fraught with moral and social mischief, and is, I believe, the source and basis of much of the crime of the island. Towards the removal of this monster evil the most strenuous efforts of the Government continue to be directed.

Agriculture and Manufacture.

The crop of last year amounted to 110,000 tons, of which only 33,000 tons were shipped before 31st December 1854. The returns show a considerable increase of land under cultivation as compared with those of 1853, amounting to 12,931 acres. Guano continues to be still used with advantage, though there are some who are inclined to think that it eventually exhausts the soil, and that its employment sacrifices prospective productiveness to the more seductive advantage of a luxuriant present crop.

The vacuum pan and the centrifugal machine are coming into more general use; and in spite of low prices, and the discouraging influence of the imperial differential duty, the quality of sugar made is, I am informed, sensibly improving on the samples of former years.

Immigration.

Whatever difficulties the colony may have had to contend with during the past year, the supply of labour has been dealt out to the planters with no sparing hand. The number of adult male labourers introduced during the year amounts to 13,728, and in addition there were 2,590 women introduced, showing a proportion of about twenty per cent. No pains are spared either by the Government or the emigration agents to increase this proportion, and I hope that their efforts may be crowned with success; but the subject of the disproportion of the sexes has been so recently and so fully brought before Her Majesty's Government, that I feel that any further comment from me would be superfluous.

General Remarks.

In conclusion, I would beg to apologize for the necessarily scanty nature of the present report, which is attributable to the very short period during which I have held the administration of the colony, and my absence from the island during the period to which it refers. But, indeed, the very full report forwarded by General Sutherland last year appeared to render an elaborate one less necessary at my hands; and I have therefore contented myself with making a few cursory remarks on the more salient points which seemed to call for notice, preferring rather to incur the charge of incompleteness than of incorrectness.

CHARLES M. HAY,
Major-General.

Encl. in No. 60.

Education of Indian Children.

7th February 1855.

(Enclosure in No. 60.)

REPORT of SPECIAL COMMITTEE of COUNCIL on the MINUTE of His Excellency the GOVERNOR, laid on the Council Table the 22nd day of March 1854.

Present:

The Hon. the Colonial Secretary.
— the Treasurer.
— W. Forster.
— G. Fropier.
— C. W. Wiehe.
— Capt. W. W. West, R.N.
— E. Baudot.

1. Read. His Excellency's Minute above mentioned, on the Education of Indian Children in this Colony.

Read also letter of Superintendent of Government Schools to Colonial Secretary, enclosing returns of schoolmasters, dated the 12th of May 1854.

2. The Special Committee express their regret that different circumstances have hitherto prevented them from giving their consideration to the subject of this important document.

3. On the gravity of the interests of which the minute treats, the Committee are entirely agreed. They regard it as a serious duty that the children of those Indians whose continuous immigration is so indispensable to the prosperity of the colony, should be rescued from the low state of ignorance and indiscipline in which they are now sunk, and should be moulded into docile and useful subjects. They consider this not only as the moral duty, but as the immediate interest of the colony; for, with a resident population of more than 100,000 Indians, it is not only a scandal, but a danger, to leave the children of this race unenlightened by knowledge, unformed by discipline, and unconnected by the ties of early habits with the people among whom they are destined to live.

4. But while they concur in admitting the evil which exists, the Committee do not find equal facility in recognizing the most obvious and simple mode of applying its remedy.

5. At first they were inclined to support his Excellency's scheme of instituting special schools for the exclusive instruction of Indian children, and training special Indian teachers for that purpose. But further consideration has convinced them that such a plan is not certain of success, and that its success would be but an equivocal gain. In the first place, the experiment which was made nearly two years ago in the Savanne, of placing Indian children under an Indian teacher, was not so fortunate as to encourage its repetition either there or elsewhere. For, after a period of eight or nine months, it was found that only sixteen scholars had availed themselves of the proffered boon, and that these had made less progress than children of the same age and race generally do in the ordinary government schools under Creole or European teachers. But, more than this, the Committee agree in thinking that the evil of such an institution would not be merely negative. They consider that, even supposing the educational duties to be well performed, the isolation of the Indian from the other Creole children at an age when their minds are most impressible, would necessarily tend to separate them in after years from the rest of the population, and perpetuate an antagonism of those races which it is so desirable to amalgamate.

6. The Committee are therefore opposed on principle to the adoption of any scheme which offers no certain guarantee of succeeding, and the success of which would confirm the segregation of the Indians and Creoles, the antagonism of races and the traditionary prejudices of caste.

Whatever be the amount of education required for Indian children in the colony, the Committee are convinced that it should be the same in kind, and in the mode of communication, as that which is given to the children of the various other races which compose the population of the colony.

And this leads them to compare the proportion of Indian to Creole children who receive education in the Government schools; and next, the proportion of the latter to the whole number of those who ought to be receiving it.

7. As nearly as can be gathered from the returns made by the different masters of the Government schools to the superintendent, and transmitted by him to the Colonial Secretary, on the subject of Indian children, it would seem that the number of those who attend the Government schools, and both of whose parents are Indian, does not altogether exceed twenty, though the number of those who bear Indian names, but whose parents are partly Indian and partly Creole, and who are identified by habits and associations with the Creoles, is larger, yet at the same time far from being so large as it ought to be.

8. Now, taking as the basis of their calculations the census made in 1851 and the annual returns of the Protector, the Committee assume that there are in this island about 10,500 Indian boys and girls of all ages up to fourteen. Of these, about 5,600 are between the ages of four and fourteen, *i. e.* at that point of life when the opportunities of imparting, and the capacity of imbibing, instruction are most copious and available.

9. Of all these 5,600 children, the Committee regret to say that scarcely 100 receive any instruction in the Government schools. And they have little hesitation in asserting that the Government schools are the only places where they receive any instruction at all. In other words, hardly 2 per cent. of the Indian children capable of being taught are enjoying the imperfect advantages of the most elementary teaching. Upon so painful a fact as this comment would be only superfluous.

10. The Committee will next proceed to examine the proportion of Creole children brought up in the Government schools.

11. According to the last annual report of the superintendent the total number of children (of whatever origin) attending these schools was 2,089 (two thousand and eighty-nine). As the Indians hardly amount to 100, two thousand may be taken as the number of Creole children so instructed.

MAURITIUS.

The Committee find that the last census returns about 38,000 as the number of all, *except Indian*, children in the colony. Of these, 23,500 were between the ages of four and fourteen. Allowing for a small increase in the number of those children, we may calculate that the proportion now borne by those educated in the Government schools to the whole number of those who are between the last-mentioned ages, is 8·5 per cent.

But to the Creole children who attend the Government schools we must add those who attend private academies, the schools under the direction of the Roman Catholic clergy, and the Royal College. These may be estimated at 3,400, so that the aggregate number of Creole (excluding Indian) children who receive any education,—whether of a higher or inferior order,—is altogether about 5,500. This presents a proportion of fourteen per cent. to all the Creole children in the colony, and of twenty-two per cent. to those who are between the two extreme ages at which children generally go to school.

Now the last great census of England and Wales (excluding Ireland, Scotland, and the Channel Islands) gives us, under its educational head, 1,768,000 day-scholars between the ages of five and fifteen out of a total number of more than 4,000,000 children between those ages, or more than forty-four per cent., and ten per cent. of the whole population of England and Wales.

12. Perhaps this comparison may at first sight appear more favourable to Mauritius than the respective resources of the colony and the mother country might have led us to anticipate. But an analysis of the numbers, however satisfactory it may be deemed in other respects, is not very encouraging so far as regards the instruction afforded to the poorer classes. While in England nearly nine-tenths of the whole instruction given both by national, denominational, public, and parochial schools is, by its very nature, designed for the benefit of those who will have to earn their bread by the sweat of their brow, in this colony more than thirty per cent. of the whole instruction given is devoted to those whose prospects in life elevate them above the conditions of manual toil. Thus, while only fourteen per cent. of the whole youthful population of the island are enjoying the privileges of education, an unusually large proportion of this fraction are enjoying an education which can only be acquired by competence or wealth. Out of 23,500 children who are of an age to learn, only 5,500 are learning at all, and of these no less than 1,649 are receiving a higher kind of education, leaving to 3,850 a lower kind, and to 18,000 no perceptible kind whatever! This disproportion between the number of those who taste the enjoyments of superior knowledge and those who are forced to go without any, is still further enhanced when we add to the 18,000 uneducated Creoles the 5,500 uneducated Indian children equally destitute and equally susceptible of education.

13. It is, therefore, clear that the difference in the educational deficiencies of the two races is one merely of degree. Only the deficiency is far more striking on the part of the Indian than of the Creole child.

14. Struck by these facts, the Committee would earnestly recommend that the attention of Government be directed to providing more general means of education for all the humbler classes of society in this colony, and not merely for that race whose present wants are the more glaring and conspicuous.

15. The Committee are well aware that difficulties and expense must be encountered in any endeavours that may be made to bring the numerical proportion of our day-scholars nearer to the standard recognized in England. That such a standard should be exactly attained is hardly to be expected in a small colony, where we look in vain for those lavish bequests and ample endowments by which, in England, private generosity or charitable association or ecclesiastical munificence has so effectually aided, and generally outstripped, the contributions of the State. Still the Committee think that the best interests of the colony require that a more extensive provision be made for the educational wants of the poorer classes, and therefore recommend to the consideration of Government the expediency of enlarging the present annual vote for that object.

16. Neither, while they offer these suggestions, are the Committee unaware of the objections entertained by some persons of respectability and influence against the diffusion of an education calculated, as they assert, to render its recipients too aspiring or too vain for the prosecution of agricultural or any other humble kind of labour.

The Committee are perfectly alive to the disrelish with which the children not only of the ex-apprentices, but also of the Indian immigrants, regard the prosecution of an industry followed by millions of freemen in every part of Europe. They know that the object which the youth of the humblest classes often propose, in acquiring education, is to qualify themselves for the situations of clerks, or other sedentary employments, and thus raise themselves above the condition of artizans, mechanics, and manual labourers. And they do not fail to perceive that this laudable ambition may, if the means of public instruction be enlarged, be gratified to an extent which may eventually prejudice not only the proprietary class, but even the aspirants themselves, by crowding the overstocked arena of competition for urban and sedentary occupations with men whose arms and sinews might be more usefully and profitably employed in the cultivation of the soil and the ruder mechanical arts.

17. But the Committee are inclined to believe that this disparagement of the most primary art of civilized life is in this colony the result of ignorance combined with past associations; and that a more general diffusion of knowledge, particularly if its com-

munication included industrial instruction, might remove this prejudice. That education of itself does not necessarily and universally inspire those on whom it is conferred with a contempt or dislike for manual labour, is proved by the recorded success of those who have recently made such strenuous efforts to spread a better sort of knowledge among the peasantry in different counties of England. It has not been found that the farm labourers have thus been filled with ideas and pretensions above their humble calling; while it has been found that wherever sound instruction has been faithfully given, the pupil, however low his position or however rude his craft, has been improved thereby in his character as a man and his steadiness as a workman. England, Holland, Switzerland, Protestant Prussia, and the United States of America, each testify that education, so far from degrading field-labour in the mind of the peasant, has dignified and exalted it, by associating it with the idea of a calling to be followed and a duty to be discharged. Nowhere in the world can men be found, as a body, more free, more intelligent, and more industrious than the peasant cotters of Switzerland and Scotland, or the skilled artizans of England and the United States. And the Committee therefore hope that a system of education which, with the ordinary instruction in reading and writing, combined some training either agricultural or mechanical, might eventually eradicate from the minds of the ex-apprentices that antipathy to the tillage of the soil for hire which was engendered by a state of things that has passed away, to return no more. Should this change ever be realized, it will add both to the collective wealth of the colony and the comfort of individuals, by recruiting the tillers of the soil from its native occupants, instead of foreign immigrants, and by rewarding with daily wages the daily labour of men whose aversion to such employment has been fostered by a long impunity of idleness, and encouraged by the proud contemptuousness of misunderstood liberty and unlettered ignorance.

18. But to bring the Creole children of this class—whether of Indian or African origin—and the Indian children, wholly new to the colony—within the operation of scholastic or industrial discipline, must, in the opinion of the Committee, require not only the generous but the coercive interference of the Government.

So long as ignorance entails no perceptible loss, and idleness provokes no external punishment, those who have hitherto been idle and ignorant will be content to remain so. How strong must have been that *vis inertiæ* which has heretofore resisted all efforts to educate the Indian children, or how strong the influence of the example set by Creole parents and Creole children, may be inferred from the striking fact, recorded in the last annual report of the superintendent of Government schools, that some of the parents, so far from embracing the opportunity thus offered, do not scruple to exact a bribe ere they finally yield to the entreaties of the teachers and send their offspring to school.

Unless, then, Government interfere with a strong as well as generous hand, there is too much reason to apprehend that the evil will not only remain undiminished, but continue to increase. And thus, in the progress of years, the colony will possess a large population useless for all purposes of labour, as it will be reckless of all the elements of knowledge; in ordinary times living from hand to mouth upon the unearned produce of a prodigal soil, and in times of unusual pressure dependent for subsistence upon the unmerited bounties of that wealth which it has neither contributed to create by its industry nor to economize by its intelligence.

19. A compulsory education is perhaps highly objectionable to some minds even now. It was for a long time generally viewed with dislike in England. But this dislike is now dying away; and at no distant time we may expect to see the education of the lower classes of society in England rendered compulsory by Act of Parliament, just as it is in Prussia and some of the united states of America. This has already been done in part for the children employed in factories, of whom 17,000, between the ages of eight and thirteen, were at the date of the last census receiving education in different "factory schools."

20. The principle of this compulsion does not admit of the same identical application here as in England. There, several thousands of children are regularly employed in the great industrial establishments. Of these, all between the above-mentioned ages must attend the "factory schools" three times daily for five days in each week. Here, unfortunately, children are not, except very rarely, employed for wages. Those who do not go to school lead lives no less of unredeemed idleness than of unillumined ignorance. Therefore one essential element of the educational machinery is wanting here, which is so effectual in England, viz., the intermediate agency of the employer.

21. But although no such powerful instrumentality exists here, the Committee are disposed to think that a similar effect might be produced by an analogous means. Such difficulties as may beset the forced instruction of Creole children (and the Committee do not consider them to be insuperable) do not in an equal degree hamper that of the Indian children. The Committee think that it would not be difficult to compel every planter who engaged Indian parents to see that the children of his labourers went to some Government school, if such existed, within a certain specified distance from his estate. And as for others—Creoles as well as Indians—the Committee believe that, whatever prejudices might be arrayed against the introduction of such a system, it would not be impossible, nor, after a short time, difficult, to carry into effect a law compelling, under

MAURITIUS.

penalties, all persons living within a certain distance of a Government school to send their children thither, unless they produced proof that they were already receiving instruction elsewhere.

22. To make this system generally effective will call into existence more and larger schools than we have at present in the colony. It will require also more teachers and more assistants than are now devoting themselves to the wearisome task of education. Even for so small an aggregate number as 2,000 pupils, many of the existing schools are overcrowded and most of the teachers overtasked. To meet the contemplated improvement, provision must be made for additional teachers and more spacious buildings. Nor should it be forgotten that, if the suggestions of the Committee be acted on, the new edifices will not be complete without the addition of working-rooms and implements for the industrial training of the children.

23. It is probable that the total expense of the proposed charges will eventually reach double the sum now annually voted for education, viz., 10,644*l.* 16*s.* But as the Committee recommend only a partial and gradual adoption of their proposal, they believe that an experiment may be made of its merits, on so slight a scale as not at first to disproportionately enhance the present annual cost of our schools. Should the first experiment be successful, the system may be extended ; and when once its benefits have been recognized by the parents of the pupils, the Committee believe that the payments made by such of them as are in competent circumstances will in a great degree make up for the additional expense incurred on behalf of the poorest classes. But this can only result from such a diffused appreciation of the benefits arising from moral and mental discipline as cannot be expected until after the lapse of some years.

24. Meanwhile the Committee content themselves with deprecating the institution of schools for the exclusive benefit of Indian children, and with recommending such a gradual augmentation of the number and such a change in the system of the existing Government schools as shall, at the same time, provide for the intellectual improvement of a larger proportion of the Creole children than at present, and shall inspire them with a love of labour even under forms which have hitherto provoked only repugnance and disgust.

25. Before they conclude their report, the Committee would remark that the prejudice entertained to particular kinds of industry would be mitigated, if not effaced, were the regulations contained in the Royal Order of Council dated the 7th of September 1838 modified or repealed. Were this done, the apprentice law of England could be put in full force throughout the colony, and it might be extended (with proper precautionary restrictions) to agricultural engagements: this, combined with the joint agency of the Government schools and the district poor relief committees (whose powers seem hitherto to have been imperfectly used), might give a character to the education of Creole children, and an early bias to their minds, which would obliterate the reproach that now attaches to their indolence, and eventually divert the resources of the colony from the costly introduction of external to the fair remuneration of internal industry.

C. J. BAYLEY,
Colonial Secretary,—Chairman.

Council Chamber, 7th Feb. 1855.

PART III.

AFRICAN SETTLEMENTS AND ST. HELENA.

PART III.—AFRICAN SETTLEMENTS AND ST. HELENA.

SIERRA LEONE.

No. 25.

SIERRA LEONE.

No. 25.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Acting Governor DOUGAN to the Right Honourable Sir W. MOLESWORTH, Bart.

(No. 143.)

Government House,
Sierra Leone, August 20, 1855.

SIR,

(Received October 13, 1855.)

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith the duplicate Blue Book for the year 1854, together with my report thereon.

Having only assumed the temporary administration of this government about two months before the close of the year 1854, I can but attempt little more in the report than beyond offering a few remarks upon some items contained in the Blue Book.

I have, &c.
(Signed) R. DOUGAN,
Acting Governor.

Sir W. Molesworth, Bart.,
&c. &c. &c.

REPORT on the Annual Blue Book of Sierra Leone for the Year 1854.

I.

Taxes, Duties, &c.

The whole of the taxes levied in the colony are imposed by various ordinances of the Governor and Council, after confirmation by Her Majesty's Government. These consist of,—

1st. *Custom duties*, which are,

An advalorem duty of four per cent. upon certain descriptions of British and Foreign goods imported into the colony, or conveyed up the Sierra Leone river, and a specific duty upon other articles.

African produce pays no duty. Horses pay a tax of 1*l.* upon being imported.

The ordinance under which these duties are imposed was passed by the Legislative Council on the 12th day of July 1853, and came into operation on the 1st day of February 1854.

2dly. Other local taxes, the principal of which are,

A. House and land tax.

B. Market dues, farmed at 350*l.* per annum.

C. A tax on horses and carriages; every horse being taxed 1*l.*, and every carriage 2*l.*

D. Auctioneers' licences, 25*l.* per annum each.

E. Spirit licences, in town 50*l.* per annum each, and in the country districts 20*l.* per annum each.

F. Licences to ply boats and canoes, 10*s.* per annum each.

Of these imposts the customs duties or dues are by far the most important with regard to revenue, as will be seen under the third head of this report.

Among the other local taxes, that upon houses and lands and spirit licences are the most productive; the rest are comparatively of little value to the revenue.

II.

Fees.

Under this head I would recommend, that the return furnished to captors of slave vessels of the negroes delivered over to the liberated African department, after emancipation, should be given gratuitously, and that the fee of 2*l.* 2*s.* now charged should not in future be demanded from the captors for this return. There is no authority for imposing this fee that can be traced.

III.

Revenue and Expenditure.

The revenue is derived,—

1st. From duties on imports.

2d. From other sources. These are,—

The other local taxes which are mentioned in the preceding first section.

Rents of factories and other places held by the Crown.

Incidental receipts, such as fees on grants of land, fines awarded by courts of law, &c.

The revenue for the year (including a balance on hand of 3,963*l.* 5*s.* 1*d.* on 1st January 1854) appears to have been - - 27,276*l.* 9*s.* 11*d.*

The expenditure - - - - 21,672*l.* 16*s.* 10*d.*

Leaving a balance in chest on 31st December 1854 of - - - - 5,603*l.* 13*s.* 1*d.*

From this amount must be deducted the sum of 2,137*l.* 9*s.* 8¾*d.* for deposits principally received from customs seizures and proceeds of unrepresented estates, which will only leave 3,476*l.* 3*s.* 4¼*d.* as the true balance due to the colony.

The finances of the colony would therefore appear at this time in a satisfactory condition; but many public works which required immediate attention were suspended, from the uncertainty, I believe, of the amount of revenue to be received within the year, in consequence of the new tariff, referred to in the first section, having only come into operation in the month of February of the past year.

The following return exhibits the net revenue and expenditure of the colony for the preceding seven years (from the year 1848 to the year 1854 inclusive), so far as the same were derived from the sources before mentioned.

Revenue.

Year.	Amount of Customs Duties on Imports, &c.	Amount of Revenue from other Sources, deducting Receipts in aid of Revenue.	Net Amount of Revenue.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1848 - -	13,816 5 1	5,044 7 4	18,860 12 5
1849 - -	12,840 2 8	4,559 15 10	17,399 18 6
1850 - -	12,974 7 7	4,056 16 7	17,031 4 2
1851 - -	16,217 8 4	4,641 8 4½	20,858 16 8½
1852 - -	13,831 18 9	6,471 10 7	20,303 9 4
1853 - -	15,934 0 7	5,896 11 2	21,830 11 9
1854 - -	15,467 7 10	6,535 9 5½	22,002 17 3½

Expenditure.

Year.	Remittances to Agent General, to pay Pensions, &c. Miscellaneous Expenses in England.	General Disbursements, exclusive of that paid from Parliamentary Grant.	Net Amount of Disbursements.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1848 - -	1,250 0 0	21,825 15 4½	23,075 15 4¼
1849 - -	750 0 0	20,119 1 1	20,869 1 1
1850 - -	500 0 0	17,639 0 7	18,139 0 7
1851 - -	2,105 0 6	17,885 14 9½	19,990 15 3½
1852 - -	1,900 0 0	17,808 14 2¾	19,708 14 2¾
1853 - -	3,450 0 0	16,764 4 3½	20,214 4 3½
1854 - -	1,904 10 11	19,678 5 11	21,672 16 10

From the foregoing return it will appear that the customs revenue collected in the past year is fully equal to that for 1853, notwithstanding the alteration in

SIERRA LEONE.

the tariff under the ordinance before mentioned, which was only in operation for eleven months of the year.

In the local revenue, also, there is an increase over the preceding year of upwards of 600*l.*

Should there be a diminution in the customs revenue for the year 1855, it may be a question for consideration whether the present tariff ought not to be remodelled, and a smaller advalorem duty imposed upon all articles imported into the colony, without reference to quality, whether for home use or exportation, with the exception of spirits and tobacco, which two articles should further pay an extra duty, if consumed in the colony. Merchants would thus be induced to import their goods direct to this place, instead of taking them, as they now do, into the neighbouring rivers, where no duties are imposed. Here their goods would be perfectly safe, and they would then only supply their factories as articles were required. In the rivers they are subject to losses by fire, and plunder by the natives.

The only direct taxation the colonists are subject to is the tax on houses and lands; and although a good deal of opposition has been made to the payment of it, still it must be admitted to be a very proper tax, affecting alike all classes of the community according to their means; and I am in hopes it will still give a greater revenue than it has done for the last two years, when more attention is paid to the collection of it, and to the enforcement of the penalties upon defaulters.

There is an increase, however, in the past year over the previous year of 240*l.* 7*s.* 9*d.*; but I think by proper management this tax might be made to yield at least 3,000*l.* per annum. As the census has been very correctly taken this year, it will now be an easy matter for the assessment roll to be made equally correct.

I will now refer to the *expenditure.*

The net expenditure of the colony, for the years 1853 and 1854, has been—

	£	*s.*	*d.*
For 1853 - - - -	20,214	4	3½
Against a revenue of - - -	21,830	11	9
For 1854 - - - - -	21,672	16	10
Against a revenue of - - -	22,002	17	3

Both years showing a surplus revenue over expenditure, in the former year of 1,616*l.*, and in the latter of 330*l.*

In the latter year the Queen's Advocate's salary of 500*l.* per annum for a portion of the year was paid from the colonial funds, and withdrawn from the Parliamentary grant. The employment of the militia force for drill, the increase of the police force, and the expense of rescuing slaves, by Governor Kennedy, have considerably increased the expenditure for the past year. Under the head of public works the expenditure has been principally confined to the completion and repair of public buildings and other necessary works. The only new work commenced is the market house at Wilberforce.

Military Expenditure.

There is no colonial expenditure under this head, and no allowances, quarters, or other advantages enjoyed by the troops (consisting of detachments from the 1st, 2d, and 3d West India Regiments) at the expense of the colony.

Public Works.

The commencement of the market house at Wilberforce, and the necessary repairs to the public buildings generally, and roads and bridges, are all that has been attempted during the year. The new wharf to be erected will, however, be the first building which will require immediate attention in the ensuing year; there is a loud outcry for wharfage accommodation, and every possible means should be adopted to expedite the progress of this work, particularly when the merchants have already paid by wharfage a very considerable sum towards its erection.

Legislation.

The following ordinances have been passed by the Legislative Council, and confirmed by Her Majesty:

"An ordinance to amend the laws relating to the sale of spirituous liquors "in this colony."

"An ordinance for the naturalization of Frederick Bultman in the colony of "Sierra Leone."

"An ordinance to amend an ordinance passed on the 12th day of July 1853, "intituled 'An ordinance to amend the laws in force for granting duties of "'customs and certain other duties or dues.'"

"An ordinance for the naturalization of Victor Duranty in the colony of "Sierra Leone."

"An ordinance to amend an ordinance, intituled 'An ordinance to amend "'the laws relative to jurors and juries in the colony of Sierra Leone.'"

"An ordinance to make further provisions for the prevention of smuggling "within the colony of Sierra Leone."

"An ordinance to amend the law for raising a tax on lands and houses "within the colony of Sierra Leone."

"An ordinance to amend an ordinance passed on the 14th day of March "1854, intituled 'An ordinance to provide for the due registration of deeds "and other instruments intended to take effect within the colony of Sierra "Leone.'"

"An ordinance for regulating the naming of streets, and for enforcing the "numbering of lots and houses, in Freetown, as well as in the rural districts "of the colony of Sierra Leone."

Council and Assembly.

The gentlemen composing the Legislative Council of the colony are—

The Chief Justice.
The Queen's Advocate.
The Colonial Secretary.
The Police Magistrate.
The Collector of Customs.
Charles Heddle, Esquire, merchant.

The Bishop has also a seat in the Council, but the successor to the late Bishop Vidal has not yet arrived in the colony.

Civil Establishment.

The only increase to the establishment was the appointment of an assistant police magistrate at a salary of 250*l.* per annum, and the usual allowance for a horse.

I regret to add that this office became vacant upon the decease of Captain H. R. Searle, shortly after his return to the colony, having been attacked with the remittent fever of the country, which subsequently produced apoplexy, of which he died on the 25th November 1854.

Pensions.

There is one additional pensioner on the list. Mrs. Vidal, widow of the late Bishop Vidal, has been granted 50*l.* per annum by the Council, which has been approved by Her Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for the Colonies.

Foreign Consuls.

The Chevalier Guillemar d'Aragon is the Especial Consul for Her Majesty the Queen of Spain.

The same gentleman is Consul for the Emperor of the French.

Population.

The Colony of Sierra Leone is divided into five districts, viz.:

1st. The district of Freetown, the capital of the colony.

2d. The first eastern district, which includes the villages of Kissy, and those of Wellington, Newlands, and Allens' Town.

SIERRA LEONE.

3d. The second eastern district comprises the villages of Hastings, Stanley Victoria, and Rokelle, Hastings Road, Waterloo, Campbell Town, and Macdonald.

4th. The western district comprises the villages of Kent, Russell, York, Sussex, and one or two small native villages, and the villages of Dublin and Ricketts in the Banana Islands.

5th. The mountain district, which occupies about the centre of the colony, contains the villages of Leicester, Gloucester, Regent, Bathurst, Charlotte, Wilberforce, Congotown, Murray, Aberdeen, Lumley, Goderick, and Adonkia.

Since the Blue Book was transmitted to the Colonial Office the census has been returned, and I am now able to furnish a statement of the population of the foregoing districts, which appears to be as follows:

	Districts.	1851.	1854.
1	Freetown - -	18,027	16,022
2	First Eastern -	5,351	5,107
3	Second Eastern -	7,827	7,512
4	Western - -	5,287	4,541
5	Mountain - -	8,009	7,201
	Total -	44,501	40,383

Showing a decrease in the total population of the colony, between the years 1851 and 1854, of 4,118 souls.

The troops in garrison were included in the past year (1854) in the census return, and as no notice was taken of them in former years, there will consequently be a further decrease of 355 more persons as compared with 1851.

It is a difficult matter to account correctly for the very large deficiency in the population during the three past years, but there has been a considerable decrease of alien residents, and since the passing of the alien children ordinance it has had the effect of driving very many persons from the colony, and transient native traders are now extremely cautious in bringing with them persons under age. There are very many absentees trading in the neighbourhood of Lagos, between which place and this port there is a very great and increasing traffic in palm oil, sprung up within the last three years, and within that period only 61 persons have emigrated to the West Indies. There is also a very great inducement for trading in the neighbouring rivers, the produce trade, particularly in ground nuts, having considerably increased, the population, therefore, must ever be fluctuating, and it is consequently impossible to arrive at any satisfactory conclusion.

Ecclesiastical.

The colony has had to deplore the loss of her first bishop, the late Owen Emeric Vidal, who died on board the "Bacchante" on the 24th December 1854, on his return from visiting a portion of his extensive diocese to the southward of this colony.

The Rev. Edward Jones has performed the duties of colonial chaplain in a most satisfactory manner during the past year, in the absence from this colony of our late bishop, and also subsequently to his death. He is respected by all classes.

Education.

The four principal establishments are under the direction of the Church Missionary Society.

Fourah Bay Institution has three instructors and seventeen students. These are prepared for the service of the Church Missionary Society as schoolmasters and catechists, with a view to the ordination of the most suitable. Their studies embrace the original languages, Arabic, mathematics, &c.

It is intended shortly to open its advantages to all, and make it a place of general education.

Grammar School, Regent Square.

This is a self-supporting pay and boarding school. It has a principal and two assistants, and occupies an intermediate position between the day school and the Fourah Bay Institution. It numbers seventy-eight pupils, and received during the year 1854 the sum of 349*l.* for board and education of pupils.

The branches taught are English grammar, geography, arithmetic, algebra, &c. Latin and Greek are also taught if required.

Female Institution, Freetown.

Under the charge of a European instructress is devoted to the education of females to a degree higher than what is attainable in the day schools. It numbers twenty-nine pupils. This is also a self-supporting school; that is, the scholars all pay for their board and tuition. The sum of 92*l.* was paid in the year 1854.

The *Normal School* at the village of Kissy is an industrial school composed chiefly of the liberated African boys whom Her Majesty's Government have committed to the care of the Church Missionary Society. It has an English master and two assistants. A carpenter's workshop is in connexion with this institution; and many of the boys are taught tailoring. A piece of ground is laid out for cultivation at the proper season. This institution has only been established during the year 1854.

Institution at King Tom's.

This institution is under the control of the Wesleyan Methodist Society, and was established for the purpose of teaching and training native youths as agents to be employed on Wesleyan Missionary stations in this colony, or any other place, in the capacity of teachers, catechists, or native missionaries, for which by their character and attainments they may be found qualified.

No changes have taken place in the various day schools throughout the colony.

Imports.

It is gratifying to notice, that, notwithstanding the alteration in the tariff, the estimated value of the imports of the colony for the year 1854 exceeds that of the preceding year by 12,031*l.* 3*s.* 6*d.*;

	£	*s.*	*d.*
The total imports for 1854 amounting to - -	110,812	12	4
And for 1853 - - - - -	98,781	8	10
	12,031	3	6

The general imports for 1854, as compared with 1853, are as follows:—

	1854			against	1853.		
	£	*s.*	*d.*		£	*s.*	*d.*
From Great Britain - -	86,165	9	5		81,975	2	4
„ British Colonies -	1,110	13	5		5,191	7	1
„ U. S. of America -	14,039	1	4		9,515	2	0
„ Other Foreign States -	9,497	8	2		2,099	17	5
	110,812	12	4		98,781	8	10

Showing that the imports from Great Britain, the United States of America and other Foreign States have increased during the past year to the amount of 16,111*l.* 17*s.* 2*d.*, and that the imports from the British Colonies have fallen off to the amount of 4,080*l.* 13*s.* 8*d.*

Exports.

The value of the exports for 1854 is stated at 154,126*l.* 3*s.* 2*d.*, against 135,808*l.* 6*s.* 3*d.* in 1853, showing an increase to the amount of 18,317*l.* 16*s.* 11*d.*

SIERRA LEONE.

This result is equally satisfactory. The export for these two years stand thus :—

	1854 £	s.	d.		against 1853. £	s.	d.
To Great Britain - -	86,833	15	11	-	77,658	0	4
„ British Colonies - -	1,975	8	3	-	—		
„ United States of America	41,267	2	11	-	20,045	7	2
„ other Foreign States -	24,049	16	1	-	38,104	18	9
	154,126	3	2	-	135,808	6	3

Showing that during the past year the exports to Great Britain and the British Colonies have increased, as compared with 1853, to the amount of 11,151*l.* 3*s.* 10*d.*, and that there is an increase also of 7,166*l.* 12*s.* 1*d.* of exports to the United States of America.

These returns, it must be borne in mind, do not include the value of the native gold exported, which, not being liable to duty, is not entered in the manifest of the vessels in clearing at the customs. But a very small amount of this article has been brought to the colony during the past year, as the roads to and from the Foulah country were closed.

Shipping.

During the year 1854 three hundred and fifty-two vessels reported inwards at the customs, comprising 34,669 tons, being a decrease of 2,700 tons, and an increase of 158 ships, as compared with 1853. The account under this head stands as follows:

	1854. Ships.	Tonnage.		1853. Ships.	Tonnage.
From Great Britain - -	39	13,242	against	43	14,530
„ British Colonies - -	9	1,517	„	10	1,853
„ United States of America -	18	3,034	„	18	3,150
„ other Foreign States -	286	16,876	„	122	17,817
Total - -	352	34,669	„	193	37,350

And the number of seamen employed in 1854 being 2,477 against 2,365 in 1853.

The amount of shipping from Great Britain, the colonies, and the United States of America, is the same as the preceding year; from other states the number of vessels is more than double, but the tonnage is rather less.

The state of the shipping outwards for the year 1854 is as follows :—

	1854. Ships.	Tons.		1853. Ships.	Tons.
To Great Britain - - -	38	13,917	against	44	15,942
„ British Colonies - -	4	621	„	4	265
„ United States of America -	16	2,865	„	10	1,661
„ other Foreign States - -	215	16,862	„	166	21,769
Total - -	273	34,265		224	39,637

And the number of seamen, 2,668 for 1854 and 2,683 for 1853.

This statement shows a decrease in the tonnage for 1854 as compared with 1853 of about 5,000 tons, and an increase of forty-nine vessels.

It will be clearly seen from the foregoing statements of the estimated value of the imports as well as exports that the trade and commerce of the colony for the year 1854 has considerably increased, and is in a prosperous condition, notwithstanding that the tonnage of vessels both inwards and outwards has decreased.

Conclusion.

Upon reviewing the several statements before mentioned, I am fully justified in characterizing the past year as one of improvement and progress, and in entertaining hopes for the increasing prosperity of the colony. A new wharf is now in progress, which, when completed, will afford great accommodation, not only to the mercantile community, but to ships of war arriving here for provisions and coals.

It may ere long be deemed necessary, with due attention to the revenue, to relieve merchants and traders from a portion of the imposts with which they are at present taxed, and also as an encouragement for the produce trade now carried on in the neighbouring rivers being brought to this port for shipment.

I have, &c.
(Signed) R. DOUGAN,
Acting Governor.

Sir W. Molesworth, Bart.,
&c. &c. &c.

GAMBIA.

No. 26.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor O'CONNOR to the Right Honourable Lord JOHN RUSSELL.

(No. 36.)

Government House, Bathurst,
Gambia, July 3, 1855.
(Received August 28, 1855.)

MY LORD,

I have the honour to transmit the Blue Book for the year 1854.

Public Works.

1. The Colonial Hospital was opened for the reception of patients in July 1854. The internal economy and the whole arrangements of this valuable building afford universal satisfaction.

2. British and Foreign seamen, European and native inhabitants, instead of being crowded in miserable huts or lodgings, surrounded by filth, and subjected to a noisome atmosphere, with little or no ventilation, are now amply accommodated in spacious airy wards, and furnished with every comfort the sick can require.

3. Two colonial surgeons, one English, the other French, are in daily attendance on the patients.

4. I nominated Doctor Arrault assistant colonial surgeon,—a gentleman of considerable local medical experience,—on the memorial of the French commercial branch of the community, who represented many seamen came from Marseilles and other ports whose patois it was difficult for any Englishman to understand.

5. The French trade is so extensive in the Gambia as regards the shipping interest I deemed it only just to concede to the reasonable wishes of those connected with it.

6. I annex a return of admissions, discharges, and deaths in the Colonial Hospital from the 1st of July 1854 to the 30th June 1855.

GAMBIA.

Years.	Paying Patients.						Paupers.						Total.		
	Admitted.		Discharged.		Died.		Admitted.		Discharged.		Died.				
	Each Month.	Average.	Each Month.	Average.	Each Month.	Average.	Each Month.	Average.	Each Month.	Average.	Each Month.	Average.	Admitted.	Discharged.	Died.
WHITE.															
1854.															
July - -	10		4		–		–		–		–		10	4	–
August -	27		24		1		–		–		–		27	24	1
September	10		14		–		–		–		–		10	14	–
October -	19		6		–		1		–		–		20	6	–
November	4		12		–		1		–		2		5	12	2
December	4		4		–		–		–		–		4	4	–
		9		8·7		·25		·17		–		·17			
1855.															
January -	–		3		–		–		–		–		–	3	–
February -	4		2		–		–		–		–		4	2	–
March -	14		4		–		–		–		–		14	4	–
April -	3		16		2		–		–		–		3	16	2
May -	10		11		–		–		–		–		10	11	–
June -	2		4		–		–		–		–		2	4	–
	107	9	104	8·7	3	·25	2	·17	–	–	2	·17	109	104	5
BLACKS.															
1854.															
July - -	6		6		–		2		1		1		8	7	1
August -	6		6		–		1		–		1		7	6	1
September	3		3		–		3		3		–		6	6	–
October -	2		2		–		6		1		3		8	3	3
November	–		–		–		3		2		2		3	2	2
December	2		1		–		2		–		2		4	1	2
		2·3		2·25		·83		2·25		1·2		·1			
1855.															
January -	5		5		1		1		–		2		6	5	3
February -	1		1		–		1		1		–		2	2	–
March -	2		1		–		2		1		1		4	2	1
April -	–		1		–		2		2		–		2	3	–
May -	1		–		–		2		2		–		3	2	–
June -	–		1		–		2		1		–		2	2	–
	28	2·3	27	2·25	1	·83	27	2·25	14	1·2	12	·1	55	41	13

7. One or two points of the foregoing document require brief explanation. In August the admissions amounted to twenty-seven; of this number nine were distressed seamen, "Lascars" belonging to a ship burnt near Goree; and in October fourteen of the same class.

8. In January there was not one admission.

9. Of one hundred and seven Europeans admitted in the past twelve months, only three died, for the two paupers cannot fairly be included in the bill of mortality.

10. Of fifty-five blacks admitted during the same time, thirteen died; but of this number twelve were paupers, taken from the streets or out of wretched dens, in an exhausted and hopeless condition, and perishing from inanition.

11. One case only of twenty-eight "paying patients" proved fatal.

12. I have enjoyed extensive and numerous opportunities of visiting many Colonial and Military Hospitals, and I am satisfied none are better calculated to answer every useful and sanatory purpose required than the one now in full operation at the Gambia.

13. The new market at Bathurst consists of three roofs, twenty feet span each and one hundred and forty feet in length, supported on sixty-four cast iron

columns; the roof is covered with sheets of galvanized corrugated iron; the rain passes down the columns into earthenware pipes, which convey it to the river.

14. The market is capable of accommodating from one hundred to one hundred and thirty venders.

15. The butchers' stalls will be enclosed; the other stalls left open. The fishmongers will have blocks of wood in the first instance, but subsequently slate slabs, to expose their fish on for sale.

16. Great attention has been bestowed to render the market building as secure and permanent as practicable; to ensure this the columns are deeply imbedded in foundations of solid masonry; the roof is divided into three spans instead of one, thereby diminishing the height, and exposing as little surface as possible to the tornadoes; the angle of the building open to the fury of the tornadoes has been protected by a wall of nine feet in height, built of country stone.

17. The sum expended on the market amounts to nearly 2,600*l.*, but this excess above the original estimate has been caused by the rapid and great increased price of materials, freight, and labour. The building is sightly, well situated, a much required and useful appendage to Bathurst, and reflects credit on the professional ability of Mr. William Bage, the colonial engineer.

Government House.

18. On taking possession of Government House, October 1852, I found the whole of the building in a dilapidated condition; the roof leaky; the beams and floors of the upper rooms and of the upper and lower piazzas completely decayed; the latter almost unsafe to walk in.

19. In 1853 a new roof was put on, and this year the beams and tiling of the lower piazza renewed. It is proposed by the colonial engineer to substitute iron girders for the present rotten "run palm" beams, and arch the front and rear walls, thus permanently repairing instead of patching up the building.

20. The Board of Survey reported the furniture, in October 1852, "as old and unserviceable." Since then three sofas and twenty-four chairs have been received for the public rooms. The furniture of the private apartments, such as it is, with few exceptions was purchased at my individual expense.

Legislation.

21. During the past year the following ordinances were brought by me before the "Legislative Council," passed, graciously approved of by the Queen, and proclaimed:—"An ordinance to restrain the future building of habitations of dangerous and inflammable materials in the town of Bathurst."

22. I consider this as a very necessary measure, for in every direction of Bathurst, within nearly every enclosure adjacent to valuable stores and dwelling houses, huts composed of cane, wattles, and thatched with grass, were indiscriminately constructed, affording a ready and abundant inflammable material for fire.

23. The universal reckless and careless habits of the natives rendered these huts sources of constant danger, for placing cooking and coal pots absolutely next the cane walls was an occurrence of every hour.

24. I am only surprised repeated conflagrations have not swept away a large amount of property, more particularly as there is not one public or private fire engine serviceable, or a solitary tank to afford a supply of water, in the whole town of Bathurst.

25. "An ordinance to amend the process, practice, and mode of pleading in the common law side in the supreme court for the British Settlements on the River Gambia," were carefully framed, dispassionately discussed, and are well

GAMBIA.

calculated to simplify the administration and effectually carry out the ends of justice.

26. Hitherto I have observed but a small amount of litigation in this colony, which I mainly attribute to the judicious and conciliatory tone and measures of the crown law officers, "the chief justice and the Queen's advocate," and assuredly not less to the absence of needy, greedy lawyers, and pettifoggers; who too frequently sow the seeds of dissension and disturb the harmony of our smaller colonies, to gain for themselves a precarious and dishonourable livelihood.

Ecclesiastical and Educational.

27. The Wesleyan Missionary Society steadily persevere in their meritorious and useful labours in God's vineyard, not only scrupulously attending to the numerous calls made upon them in "Bathurst," "Barra Point," "Cape Saint Mary's," and MacCarthy's Island," but are sparing no exertion to establish places of worship and for Sunday readings in different portions of the ceded territory of Combo, thereby disseminating the healing and wholesome truths of the Gospel.

28. I trust before any considerable time has elapsed temporary places of worship and chapels will be found at "Jeswang," Bacco Konko, a military village, and even at "Sabagee;" and, the field thus boldly taken by those "soldiers of Christ" against the creed and followers of the "false prophet," the fast spreading tide of Mahomedanism may be checked,—at all events in the British Settlements in Combo.

29. Universal practical good is hourly performed by the lady superior and "sisters of charity."

30. These pious and exemplary women attend the sick and needy labouring under the most dangerous and loathsome diseases; give gratuitously daily medical advice and aid to the poor who apply to them, without distinction as to religion, creed, or colour.

31. They educate at their own expense upwards of fifty scholars, and although compelled from their very limited means often to exist upon scanty fare, board six girls at the cost of the Catholic mission.

32. Receiving no aid or support from Government, they have been obliged to suspend the boys' school.

33. The sisters of charity visit foreigners, patients in the Colonial Hospital, read to them, and administer the rites of the church, and they cheerfully bestow their invaluable services, nurse-tending, whenever invited to do so. The life of more than one officer has been preserved by their skill and unwearied and devoted attention.

Military.

34. The accommodation for the officers and soldiers still remains most unsatisfactory, insufficient, and expensive.

35. During the rainy season of 1854, and the subsequent months, when the harmattans or desert winds test the soundest European constitution, all the officers suffered more or less from fever, ague, and climate complaints.

36. I am indebted to Staff Assistant Surgeon John Hendley, resident medical officer, for the annexed clear and comprehensive returns of the health of the troops.

No. 1.

RETURN of the Number of Officers who underwent Medical Treatment in Bathurst, Gambia, from 1st July 1854 to 30th June 1855.

Average Strength of Officers, 19 · 6.

Years.	Admitted.	Discharged.	Died.	Invalided to England.	No. of Officers treated.	No. of Times under Treatment.	Total No. of Times under Treatment.
1854.							
July - -	6	4	1	—	13	1	13
August - -	11	11	1	—	6	2	12
September -	8	8	—	—	4	3	12
October - -	10	9	—	—	1	4	4
November -	5	5	—	1	3	5	15
December -	4	1	—	4	1	10	10
1855.							
January - -	2	1	—	—			
February -	4	3	—	—			
March - -	4	1	—	3			
April - -	4	3	—	1			
May - -	3	4	—	—			
June - -	5	5	—	—			
	66	55	2	9	—	—	66

No. 2.

RETURN of Admissions, Discharges, and Deaths, and Cases of Corporal Punishments (distinct), in the Military Hospital, Bathurst, Gambia, from 1st June 1854 to 31st May 1855.

Years.	Admitted.		Discharged.		Died.		Cases of Corporal Punishments.			
							Admitted.		Discharged.	
	Each Month.	Average.	Each Month.	Average.	Each Month.	Average.	Each Month.	Average.	Each Month.	Average.
1854.										
June - -	12		11		2		—		—	
July - -	10		12		—		—		—	
August - -	21		18		1		1		1	
September -	14		16		2		—		—	
October - -	14		12		—		—		—	
November -	5		7		—		—		—	
December -	14		10		2		—		—	
		12·8		12·3		·75		·17		·17
1855.										
January -	13		12		1		—		—	
February -	12		8		—		—		—	
March - -	15		20		—		—		—	
April - -	10		8		—		1		1	
May - -	12		14		1		—		—	
	152	12·8	148	12·3	9		2	·17	2	·17

"*Dover.*"

37. I proceeded in the "Dover" up the River Gambia to the most distant European factory save one, in March, visiting the kings and chiefs, and holding commercial palavers with them.

38. I am satisfied it is of considerable benefit as regards our relations with the several potentates for the Governor of the Gambia to meet them on a friendly footing at least yearly.

39. This intercourse reminds our allies we hold a fixed position in the river, have the means and power of being easily and rapidly in their dominions, and that we are not forgetful of them or of their people; besides, visits of ceremony are considered and received as marks of honour and friendship.

40. Having to inspect the troops at Sierra Leone in April, I selected the route viâ the whole coast instead of the direct one.

41. I called at Bissao-Bulama, Kanaback; made a treaty with the king and chiefs of the last-named Bijuga Island.

No. 29.
Governor O'Connor to Lord J. Russell, 21st May 1855.

42. In a political or commercial point of view, the convention is of very trifling consequence, but it may tend to serve the cause of humanity, "as it "provides, white men under the British flag trading to or wrecked upon the "Bijuga Islands are not to be maltreated, plundered, and massacred, but "protected until means are afforded them of leaving."

Finally.

43. I feel more than ordinary satisfaction in being able to report that crime is by no means on the increase in this colony.

44. From the 1st of January to the 30th of June only twenty-seven cases of drunkenness and thirty-six of street disturbances were brought before the police magistrate; the latter caused by intoxicated European seamen.

45. At the last quarter sessions three prisoners were convicted; eleven are now for trial at the approaching sessions.

46. So much for crime in Bathurst during the last six months, among a population of nearly 4,500 persons.

47. From my own personal experience, extending over a period of nearly three years, in this government, I am convinced that very few communities have less real cause to complain of grave offences being committed against peace and good order than falls to the lot of the inhabitants of Her Majesty's settlements in the Gambia.

I have, &c.
(Signed) L. S. O'CONNOR.

The Right Hon. Lord John Russell,
&c. &c. &c.

GOLD COAST.

No. 27.

Copy of a DESPATCH from Acting Governor Connor to Lord John Russell.

(No. 66.) Cape Coast Castle, July 16, 1855.

My Lord, (Received 13th October 1855.)

I have the honour to transmit herewith in duplicate the Blue Book for 1854.

2. The year 1854 was here politically an unfortunate one, as two insurrections at Accra disfigured its course. The measures taken to repress the second were severe; but as I apprehend that British influence is the mainstay of improvement in this country, I hope that this severity, by tending to establish that influence, is to be regarded as good elicited from evil. I cannot, however, but think that the establishment kept up in these settlements is inadequate to secure to the Government the influence as a protecting power which it might have with reference to the large population and territory it is in contact with in that relation; but then, on the other hand, I can have no doubt but that the existing establishment effects a large amount of benefit, directly and indirectly; and any more extended operations in the interior would be so dangerous to European life, in addition to requiring an increased expenditure by the mother country without remunerative return, that it may be wiser, while the connexion continues to be one of dignity and authority in the British Crown towards the natives, to be content with the good which can be done under the present system.

3. The receipts of the poll tax of these settlements, and the expenditure of it, are in this Blue Book included and represented as part of the revenue and expenditure of these settlements, in like manner as the other local revenues have hitherto been treated in this respect. As the poll tax was imposed by a native meeting summoned for the occasion though presided over by the Governor (Hill), it is not identical in kind with other colonial revenue, such as customs; but still I could not regard this fund as "local revenue raised and appropriated under the authority of any municipal or other body;" or even supposing that without straining it could be reduced under this denomination, I thought that the establishment and administration of the settlements would be shown so as more satisfactorily to meet the objects of the Blue Books by representing these together in one point of view, in their whole extent, however miniature.

4. The receipts from the poll tax are stated in the Blue Book for 1853 as amounting to the sum of 7,567*l.* 6*s.* 1*d.*; but I find it difficult to reconcile that statement with facts and with other documents which I consider more authentic, such as the books of account where the receipts are entered from time to time, the statement drawn up for the information of the native chiefs in May 1854, and Governor Hill's despatch to the Right Honourable Secretary Sir George Grey of 31st May 1854, No. 36. These two latter documents show a receipt for poll tax of 6,656*l.* 9*s.* 11*d.* from August 1852 up to 31st December 1853. Part of the difference is accounted for by this circumstance, that a considerable proportion of the payments was in cowries. These are reckoned among the people at 3*s.*4*d.* a head (as a certain quantity of cowries is denominated); and they were received in payment at that rate; but the Government could only realize for them on sale 2*s.*9*d.* a head, this being a loss of 7*d.* a head. Now as 19,752 heads and a fraction are stated to have been paid, this would occasion the receipts to be less than the nominal payments by a sum of 576*l.* 5*s.* 0*d.* The currency of the country is one tenth greater in denomination than sterling, and this consideration, if applicable, would more than account for the remaining difference.

The Blue Book for 1854 states the amount of receipts for poll tax in the year 1854; and as it appears that the sum of 6,656*l.* 9*s.* 11*d.*, set down as the receipts as I have above mentioned upon the lower calculation, included even then all payments on account of poll tax from August 1852 to the end of May 1854, the sum of 3,624*l.* 15*s.* 9½*d.*, the receipts in 1854, are to the

GOLD COAST.

amount of 1,891*l.* 18*s.* 9½*d.* included in the sum of 6,656*l.* 9*s.* 11*d.* In short, to suppose that both the sums of 6,656*l.* 9*s.* 11*d.* and 3,624*l.* 15*s.* 9½*d.* have been received up to the end of the year 1854 would be an error in excess by the sum of 1,891*l.* 18*s.* 9½*d.* Since, however, the 31st December 1854, the sum of 1,136*l.* 5*s.* 8*d.* has been received in respect of the collection for 1854.

5. The statement in the Blue Book of 1853 of receipts of poll tax appears erroneous on the grounds I have stated, but the statement of the expenditure of the tax appears to be still more so. The latter is stated as 3,585*l.* 8*s.* 0*d.* Now the statement, and the Despatch of May 1854, which I have already alluded to, show an expenditure of the tax of 5,867*l.* 16*s.* 11½*d.* So that while the Blue Book professes to show a receipt as large as 7,567*l.* 6*s.* 1*d.*, and an expenditure of only 3,585*l.* 8*s.* 0*d.*, and therefore implies a balance in hands of 3,981*l.* 18*s.* 1*d.*, the two other documents show and expressly state in figures a balance in hands of only 788*l.* 12*s.* 11½*d.* I believe the two latter documents to be very nearly (I dare say quite) correct, except that I conceive they speak of a state of things existing, not on 31st December 1853, but in May 1854. I do not believe that ever since the poll tax has been in existence has there been anything like such a balance in hands as 3,981*l.* 18*s.* 1*d.* The frequent changes in office here make explanation difficult. During the period from August 1852 to May 1854, to which these accounts relate, there were here two collectors general of poll tax, and two acting ditto, and one secretary (also treasurer), and two successive acting ditto; and though the two offices were at times held by the same person, five distinct persons were in the above characters during that period accountants in respect of the receipts and expenditure, and none of these are in the settlements now, nor have they been since December last, when I became Acting Governor, so that I have not had the opportunity of getting explanation. Governor Hill, by his Despatch of 31st May 1854, estimated the poll tax for 1854 at 6,000*l.* I regret, however, to say that the receipts fell short of that by fully one half. The Accra disturbances hindered any collection in the leeward districts, which had paid the first year very nearly the amount of the present deficiency.

6. The customs returns show, I am happy to say, a very considerable increase in imports and exports over the year 1853; viz.

Imports in 1853	£60,000
Ditto 1854	107,200
Exports in 1853	115,000
Ditto 1854	200,002

The customs duties being at the nominal rate of an ad valorem duty of half per cent. are scarcely worth notice, but there has been a corresponding increase.

1853.

	£	*s.*	*d.*
Customs	256	5	5½
Port and harbour dues	88	15	0
Permits and passports	17	17	0
	£362	7	5½

1854.

Customs	354	11	7
Port and harbour dues	123	0	0
Permits	15	16	0
Not distinguished	132	3	11
Passports	3	13	0
	£629	4	6

The total revenue in 1853, including the Parliamentary grant, is stated in the Blue Book for that year to be £13,249 17 8¾
that in 1854 10,211 1 3

decrease £3,038 16 5¾

The expenditure for 1853 is stated in the Blue Book to be 9,763 4 5¾
that for 1854 9,376 0 9

My previous observations go to contest the accuracy of the statement of the Blue Book of 1853 in respect of these two heads of receipts and expenditure. Correcting these by the two other documents which I have referred to, the revenue will stand for 1853 as 12,339*l.* 1*s.* 6¾*d.*, and the expenditure for 1853 12,045*l.* 13*s.* 5¼*d.* An ordinance has passed the Council lately for increasing the duty upon imports from one half to three per cent., and if this shall receive Her Majesty's allowance I should hope that the revenue from customs will be increased fully six fold.

7. I need hardly observe that the distinguishing export trade from the Gulf of Guinea is now that in palm oil. I should hope that the stimulus given to this trade by the war with Russia, introducing, as it necessarily must, a much extended occupation in the production, will be followed, by persons once so occupied continuing producers of the oil when the price shall have fallen. There may, however be the contrary effect for a time; that the producers, having received a higher price, will refuse a lower, and will not sell at all. The palm oil trade, however, is not carried on to any great extent in the British protected territory on the Gold Coast. The seat of it is farther to leeward. Prampram, a town lying east of Christiansborg Castle, and long, I am told, in connexion with the British Government, but where for some years there have been no officers of Government, is the chief seat of the trade within the British jurisdiction.

8. With respect to the people of this country there is little to be said. Education and Christianity both make advances. The Government has long had a school at Cape Coast Castle, and several of the native merchants have been educated at it; men who are now so much up as to send their children to England for education. The Government avails itself too of funds at its disposal by the poll tax revenue to send as schoolmasters into interior districts young men educated at the Castle. These go into the wild interior, speaking English, and knowing how to read and write and reckon, and these things they teach others, however rudely. The teachers too have themselves been impressed in the Castle school and chapel with the leading truths of Christianity, and carrying with them their Bible and prayer book, we may hope that many others may get a glimmering of knowledge which so much concerns their well-being. The Wesleyan Society has many stations in this country; but without at all wishing to detract from the credit due to this society, I cannot but express my astonishment that the great Church of England societies have never, as far as I am aware, considered this extensive tract of heathen country, enjoying British protection, worth sending a clergyman to. They go to Lagos, Abbeokuta, and other savage places outside the British jurisdiction, but they are not sent here; and, to carry out the same course consistently, we saw last year the late, and, I believe, much-to-be lamented Bishop of Sierra Leone, I believe for the first time, but then twice: he arrived in the October mail in the morning, and left with it in the evening. He stayed in the Lagos district till the following steamer was returning in December, when he again came here with it in the morning; and as part of the machinery required repairing, the steamer stayed till the next evening, and then started with the bishop; but the latter, as your Lordship is aware, died before he reached Sierra Leone, of jungle fever, which he had caught from over-exertion in the Lagos district.

9. This people I believe enjoy as happy an animal existence as any in the world. You see, I may say, no misery here from poverty; you see no rags; a cloth, or in the case of the women two, do the great generality for clothing, and this dress is both in men and women very generally neat. They are a cleanly people in their persons, and, as far as I have seen a kindly people among themselves. They are as a people sadly deficient in manly straightforwardness or truth and in honesty. But daring acts, whether of robbery or violence, are not, I think, often committed. I have introduced into the Blue Book some further observations with reference to the people and their habits, and the products of the country, which I shall not trouble your Lordship by repeating here.

10. In conclusion, I may observe, that the year 1854 was considered for the place a healthy one; but still the proportion from among the small number of civil and military officers or other Europeans who die or are invalided, even in healthy years, is large. It is however very probable that much of this is attributable in part to indiscretions; but the nature of this climate is, that though

GOLD COAST.

happily sweeping epidemics are scarcely known to it, yet. generally speaking, it is ever sapping the health, and is always ready to seize fatally on anything peccant either in habits or constitution.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY CONNOR.

The Right Hon. Lord John Russell,
&c. &c. &c.

ST. HELENA.

ST. HELENA.

No. 28.

No. 28.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Acting Governor Colonel VIGORS to the SECRETARY of STATE for the COLONIES.

(No. 7.)

St. Helena, March 29, 1855.
(Received June 12, 1855.)

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to transmit the Blue Book for the year 1854.

2. The revenue for the year amounts to the sum of 16,749*l.* 0*s.* 6½*d.*, of which 603*l.* 18*s.* 4*d.* was received on account of the widows' and orphans' fund, leaving a net colonial revenue of 16,145*l.* 2*s.* 2*d.* As compared with the year 1853, there would appear to be a falling-off amounting to 1,517*l.* 14*s.* 8*d.*, which must be attributed to the unusually large amount of imports in the former year.

Revenue 1854.

1854	£16,145	2	2
1853	17,662	16	10
	1,517	14	8

3. The revenue for 1854 may however be said to have equalled the expectations which were entertained when the estimates for the year were prepared, there being only the slight difference of 99*l.* 17*s.* 9*d.* between the estimated and actual receipts.

Revenue, 1854.

Estimated	£16,245	0	0
Actual	16,145	2	2½
	99	17	9

4. The expenditure amounts to 19,083*l.* 0*s.* 11½*d.*, showing an increase of little more than 3,000*l.* over both the estimates for 1854 and the comparative expenditure of 1853. The items which compose the excess are chiefly a remittance of 2,000*l.* to Mr. Barnard, an addition of 566*l.* to the estimated expenses of erecting the new gaol, a refund of 338*l.* to the commissariat chest for water charged against the African establishment, and about 200*l.* additional expense of completing the militia corps and drilling recruits on the commencement of the present war.

Expenditure.

1854	£19,083	0	11½
1853	15,976	17	2
	3,106	3	9½

Expenditure, 1854.

Estimated	£15,751	15	9
Actual	19,083	0	11½
	3,331	5	2½

5. After paying this excess from the balance reserved for the purpose in the commissariat chest, there still remains the sum of 1,631*l.* 13*s.* 8*d.* on the 31st December 1854 to the credit of the colony.

6. It is but due to Colonel Browne, the late Governor, to remark, that during his government, by a careful reduction of the expenses of the establishment on the one hand, and by the alteration in the customs tariff, abolishing the ad valorem duties, substituting a scale of wharfage in lieu, and also reducing the tax upon licences to sell wines, spirits, &c., and increasing the duties upon their importation, the financial condition of the colony has been much improved; and although at first sight it would appear that the accounts of the year show a deficit of 3,000*l.*, it nevertheless will be found on examination that the revenue exceeds the ordinary expenses of the government, the excess of expenditure being for special services, and improvements, for the accomplishing of which a sufficient balance had been allowed to accumulate in the treasury.

7. I regret that the failure of crops, particularly of potatoes, referred to by Colonel Browne in his report on the previous year, has again been severely felt. The successful efforts of the lessee of Longwood to grow wheat has led to a reasonable hope that it may under existing circumstances be profitably substituted for other crops in those lands which are suitable for the purpose, and the attention of the farmers generally has been turned to this subject.

8. The construction of the new gaol was not completed until the close of the year. The information and returns connected with gaols and prisoners relate therefore exclusively to the old prison at James Town, which continued in use until the latter part of December 1854.

9. In compliance with a circular despatch from Sir George Grey, requesting that a general report of the state of repair of the government house should be inserted in the Blue Book, I have caused the civil engineer to prepare a detailed and full report, accompanied by a plan and estimate of the amount required to complete its repairs.

10. An inventory and report on the state of the furniture is likewise submitted in my despatch No. 9. of this date.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. N. VIGORS,
Colonel, and Acting Governor.

Right Hon. the Secretary of State
for the Colonies.

Enclosure in No. 28.

SIR, Civil Engineer's Office, St. Helena, February 12, 1855.

IN compliance with the request contained in your letter of the 10th ultimo, I have the honour to forward a report of the state of Plantation House, together with an estimate for putting the same in complete repair, framed after a careful examination of the premises.

In consequence of it being stated in your letter that this information was required for England, I have deemed it advisable to accompany this report with the annexed plans Nos. 1 and 2, the first showing the accommodation in the dwelling house, and the second the extent and boundary of the grounds of 166 acres.

The estimate of repair amounts to 661*l.* 9*s.* 11*d.*, and an estimate framed in similar detail by me in August 1851 amounted to 498*l.* 1*s.* 8*d.*; one of the principal causes of increase arises from the amount of a new item that I have brought forward, viz., renovating the exterior of the dwelling house, an item not perhaps immediately necessary, but one that ought not to be long deferred.

From a comparison of these estimates it confirms me in the opinion that 200*l.* per annum is not sufficient to cover more than the current repair continually required in such extensive premises, and I would respectfully submit whether a periodical additional grant should be allowed, to effect such items of repair as do not fairly come under this class.

I would, in regard to the present estimate, specify the following items under this latter head; viz.

A new roof on the library.
Do. do. laundry.
Renovating the front of the main building;
A new roof on closets marked 12 on plan.

A new improved system of tubular drainage, although not now estimated, would, I think, be attended with most beneficial results to the property.

I have also to report that, further in compliance with your letter, I accompanied Capt. T. B. Knipe in examining the state of the furniture in Plantation House, and the result of an inspection of the same is shown in a column of remarks attached to the inventory.

I framed an estimate of what appeared to me desirable to be laid out in renewing some of the covering worn out, and in effecting several items of repair that would much improve the state generally of this furniture, and the same amounts to 75*l.*

I have, &c.
(Signed) GEO. W. MELLIS,
Civil Engineer.

R. C. Pennell, Esq.,
Colonial Secretary.

CAPE OF GOOD HOPE.

No. 29.

CAPE OF GOOD HOPE.

No. 29.

Copy of a DESPATCH from Governor Sir George Grey to the Right Honourable Lord John Russell.

(No. 69.) Government House, Cape Town, June 9, 1855.

My Lord, (Received July 17, 1855.)

I have the honour herewith to transmit the Blue Book for the year 1853, which I this day received from the Colonial Secretary's office.

It would appear to be a useless labour for me now, in the middle of 1855, to attempt to acquire such a knowledge in detail of the colony in the year 1853 (so long before my arrival here) as would enable me to transmit with the Blue Book of 1853 an annual report of the state of the colony in that year, more especially as I have forwarded to your department very full reports of the present state of the colony.

The Colonial Secretary informs me that rapid progress is being made in the compilation of the Blue Book for the year 1854.

I have, &c.

The Right Hon. Lord John Russell, (Signed) G. GREY.
&c. &c. &c.

NATAL.

No. 30.

NATAL.

No. 30.

Copy of a DESPATCH from Acting Lieutenant-Governor Colonel H. Cooper to the Right Honourable Lord John Russell.

(No. 60.) Government House, Natal, October 19, 1855.

My Lord, (Received January 25, 1856.)

In obedience to standing instructions I have the honour to transmit the accompanying Report, required from me on the general condition and prospects of this district, to accompany the Blue Book of 1854, which has already been forwarded to your Lordship in duplicate.

I have, &c.

Lord John Russell, (Signed) H. COOPER,
&c. &c. &c. Acting Lieutenant Governor.

Report on the Blue Book for the Year 1854.

I.—*Revenue and Expenditure.*

The necessity for the loan of 4,000*l.*, raised by the Government of the district at the latter end of the last and the commencement of this year, being calculated, under present circumstances, to produce some little uneasiness, it will not be unprofitable to refer to the annexed table, showing whence the revenue is derived, and the amounts received under each head.

Statement of actual Receipts during the Year 1854.

Customs	£10,936	1	6
Port and Harbour Dues	136	16	1
Land sales for cash	88	0	0
Land revenue	1,439	9	4
Rents, exclusive of land	8	6	8
Transfer duties	1,262	3	1
Auction duties	463	19	2
Licences	20	0	0
Stamps	1,829	4	9
Taxes	10,038	8	0
Postage	1,216	18	8
Fines, forfeitures, and fees of court	532	2	2
Fees of office	354	7	6
Sale of Government property	19	9	0
Miscellaneous receipts	59	8	8
Special receipts	49	18	5½
Total*	£28,454	13	0½

* This total is of course exclusive of 2,000*l.* of the loan taken up during 1854.

3. This amount is greater than that collected in any previous year, and exceeds that of 1853 by nearly 400*l.*, as shown by the following return, from which all items that do not form actual revenue, such as loans, &c., have been excluded :—

STATEMENT OF ACTUAL REVENUE.

	£	*s.*	*d.*
1846	3,073	4	3¾
1847	6,640	15	7¾
1848	9,268	18	7¾
1849	12,831	18	7
1850	28,410	1	2½
1851	26,408	16	3
1852	25,606	19	0¾
1853	28,069	5	0¼
1854	28,454	13	0½

The expenditure on the other hand has been as follows, exclusive of all items such as loans repaid, which do not form part of the actual expenditure :—

STATEMENT OF ACTUAL EXPENDITURE.

	£	*s.*	*d.*
1846	6,905	8	3½
1847	8,340	4	7½
1848	10,101	4	9¼
1849	14,940	15	1¾
1850	21,774	4	5
1851	21,912	4	0½
1852	25,232	17	2
1853	28,597	14	6¼
1854	31,642	12	2½*

4. From this return it would appear that a sum of 3,044*l.* 17*s.* 8¼*d.* was expended last year in excess of that expended during the previous year. The following statement will, however, show in what service this excess chiefly occurred :—

Amounts expended in 1854 that may be considered of a peculiar and special nature :—

	£	*s.*	*d.*	£	*s.*	*d.*
District Court :—						
Recorder's salary				849	14	5
Crown Prosecutor :—						
Acting Crown Prosecutor's salary				49	13	9
Transport :—						
Expenses connected with expedition against Dushani				22	4	0
Works and Buildings :—						
Erection of offices at Ladysmith in excess of estimate	485	0	0			
Compensation for a house at the Point, Port Natal	80	0	0			
Watercourse at Grey Town	50	0	0			
Stables at Ladysmith for Cape Mounted Rifles	50	1	0			
				665	1	0
Roads, streets, and bridges, in excess of Estimate				466	9	9
Carried forward				2,053	2	11

* This amount includes, in addition to the sum shown as actual expenditure, all loans repaid, advances issued, deposits withdrawn, and the amount stolen from the Sub Treasury at Ladysmith. This latter has been omitted in the expenditure shown in the Blue Book. As, however, credit has been taken for the sum abstracted, it must be considered to be an item of expenditure.

NATAL.

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Brought forward - -				2,053	2	11
Miscellaneous Services:—						
Standard weights and measures -	141	1	6			
Ammunition for burghers - -	160	11	0			
Compensation to Resident Magistrate, Inanda, for removing his residence -	100	0	0			
Allowance to "Natal Mercury" and "Zuid Oost Afrikaan" newspapers -	160	0	0			
Compensation to A. Z. Vizagie (for a farm resumed) - - -	400	0	0			
Law expenses in the case of the preceding - - -	57	9	1			
Law expenses in other cases -	6	4	3			
Expedition against the chief Dushani -	794	11	6			
				1,819	17	4
Interest and commission - - -				99	18	9
Special payment:—						
Recorder's expenses on his voyage to England -				548	10	8
Total -				£4,521	9	8

5. The first two items, amounting together to 899*l.* 8*s.* 2*d.*, were on account of salaries paid to Mr. Cloete and Mr. Cope, and that amount was, in addition to the ordinary demand on the revenue for the offices of Recorder and Crown Prosecutor, necessitated by the suspension and subsequent re-instatement of Mr. Cloete in the former office.

6. Under Roads I find an excess of expenditure over the amount provided for of 466*l.* 9*s.* 9*d.* I shall, however, reserve any remarks I may have to offer on this subject for a subsequent part of this Report.

7. Miscellaneous Services, 1,819*l.* 17*s.* 4*d.*, were incurred mainly on account of a portion of the expenses consequent on the commando against the chief Dushani, and of a decision of the District Court, whereby compensation was awarded to A. Z. Visagie for a first-class farm, which had been included in a native location.

8. To these items should be added a sum of 548*l.* 10*s.* 8*d.*, which is classed under the head of "Special Payments," paid to Mr. Cloete, as travelling and other expenses in proceeding to Europe. The items I have not remarked on appear to be set forth with sufficient clearness in themselves.

9. To enable, however, Her Majesty's Government to arrive at a just conclusion with reference to the general financial condition of this district, I subjoin the following table, showing the excess or deficit in the revenue as compared with the expenditure of each year since 1846. This table includes all transactions of a financial nature since that date:—

—	Revenue.			Expenditure.			Excess of Revenue over Expenditure.			Deficit of Revenue.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Balance in Treasury, Natal, on 31st December, 1845 - -	2,116	2	0¾	–	–	–	2,116	2	0¾	–	–	–
1846 - - -	5,561	5	11¼	6,949	13	2	–	–	–	1,388	7	2¾
1847 - - -	8,476	13	2¼	9,077	16	6¼	–	–	–	601	3	4
1848 - - -	11,925	0	5¾	10,446	1	9¼	1,478	18	8½	–	–	–
1849 - - - -	18,968	11	6	19,104	12	2¾	–	–	–	136	0	8¾
1850 - - -	39,742	3	11	36,770	16	9	2,971	7	2	–	–	–
1851 - - - -	30,956	3	5½	31,263	5	1	–	–	–	307	1	7½
1852 - - -	29,650	6	3¾	31,806	18	11	–	–	–	2,156	12	7¼
1853 - - - -	30,272	14	7¾	29,754	7	10¾	518	6	9	–	–	–
1854 - - -	31,403	11	7½	*32,848	2	9	–	–	–	1,444	11	1½
	209,072	13	1½	208,021	15	1	7,084	14	8¼	6,033	16	7¾

* This amount includes, in addition to the sum shown as actual expenditure, all loans repaid, advances issued, deposits withdrawn, and the amount stolen from the Sub-Treasury at Ladysmith. This latter has been omitted in the expenditure shown in the Blue Book. As, however, credit has been taken for the sum abstracted, it must be considered to be an item of expenditure.

10. It will therefore be seen that the revenue of this district was not at any time since 1850 in a condition to cause any anxiety as to its meeting the ordinary expenditure; nor indeed is it so as regards the future, even assuming that it is necessary to maintain the public establishments at their present level; some of which are, however, in my opinion, too large, and may, without injury to the public interests, be greatly reduced.

II.—*Public Works.*

11. No buildings of importance were commenced during last year; but the public offices at Ladysmith were completed in a neat and workmanlike manner, as well as some minor buildings in other villages.

12. *Works at the Harbour.*—These works are continued under the superintendence of a local resident engineer. A breakwater has been extended from the spit of loose sand on the north-east side of the entrance of the bay to such a distance seaward as has already proved of great importance, both in deepening the water on the bar through the increased velocity of the tides, and in protecting the sand of the spit, which, previous to the commencement of the works in 1850, was subject to frequent shiftings, under the influence of the wind and sea. In the present state of the works, owing chiefly to the amount of materials laid out as a rough reef, it would be presumption, and might mislead, to report in detail upon the extension seaward of the breakwater. Up to the close of the present year, however, 23,402 tons of stone have been laid down at an expense of 8,623*l.* 3*s.* 9½*d.*, of which, 8,544 tons were laid down during the fourteen months ending December 1854, at an expense of 2,622*l.* 8*s.* 9½*d.* As the work advances the depth of water on the bar will be increased; but without assistance from the Imperial Treasury, the means at the disposal of the Colonial Government are so inadequate that it is to be feared several years must elapse before the state of the works is such as shall raise the character of the port in the estimation of the owners of shipping of large tonnage as a place of resort. An Ordinance, vesting the control of these works in a Board, to be styled the "Harbour Board," has recently been passed by the Legislative Council; and I hope, ere long, to be able to furnish Her Majesty's Government with more complete information in respect to these works than they have hitherto been in possession of.

13. *Roads.*—An amount of 2,166*l.* 9*s.* 9*d.* was expended last year in the construction and repair of the roads. This work has been chiefly entrusted to military road parties, furnished to the Civil Government by myself, as commandant, aided by native labour. Roads thus constructed cost about one fourth of the sum that would be expended on them if other white labourers were employed. Great improvements have been made in the road between this city (the seat of Government), and D'Urban, the seaport.

14. *Bridges.*—Under this head may be included a sum of 243*l.* 11*s.* 1*d.* for a pontoon for the Umgeni, by which access is secured during the rainy seasons between the port and the coast lands north of it.

III.—*Education.*

15. But little alteration has been made since 1853 towards a better system of education. The public schools at Pietermaritzburg and D'Urban continue to be supported by the Government. There are seven schools aided by Government, being an increase of one over the number in the preceding year; and many schools, receiving no aid from the Government, are entirely supported by private individuals. To enable the Secretary of State to judge what difficulty would attend the alteration of the present system (if any can be said to exist), I would refer to the subjoined reports of a commission appointed for the purpose of examining the schools established in the district, and of recommending some system adapted to the requirements of the population. By these reports it will be seen that the gentlemen composing the commission were unable to agree, and have furnished me in consequence with separate reports. The present system appears to me to require revision; and I shall not fail to bring this question before his Excellency Sir George Grey, on his arrival here. No material progress has then been made, arrangements having been allowed to go on as previously. A great impediment will be found, in the event of some better system being adopted, from the want of good teachers. There are

NATAL.

also two other serious obstacles in the way of education in this district; and I would bring the fact prominently forward. The first is, the scantiness of the population speaking the English language, the majority talking Zulu-Kafir, and another large portion of the community using the Dutch patois, so that the acquisition of a new language would become a part of the elementary instruction. The second being the number of religious communities into which the small portion using the English language is divided, namely, the Church of England, the Church of Rome, the Presbyterians, the Wesleyans, and the Independents, not to omit the Dutch Reformed Church, a very small portion of whose members speak English.

16. Time and intercourse between the different races will lessen the first difficulty. The second, and perhaps the more serious, could be overcome if any system similar to that established in Ireland with such beneficial results could be adopted here. This would, doubtless, be the most desirable way to overcome the difficulty; but however desirable, I fear it is impossible, under present circumstances, to resort to it; for supposing that no prejudice would exist against such a system, the expense alone would be too burdensome for the resources of this district to bear. I shall, however, take a more fitting opportunity to discuss the subject, this being no place for discussion or suggestion.

IV.—*Imports and Exports.*

17. *Imports.*—The following table shows the value of the imports for each year from 1846 to the end of last year:—

Years.	Value of Imports. £	*s.*	*d.*
1846	41,958	10	3
1847	46,981	8	3
1848	46,204	6	10
1849	55,921	14	11
1850	111,015	11	5
1851	125,462	6	8
1852	103,701	5	4
1853	98,534	13	2
1854	124,722	6	9

This table shows an excess of imports over last year of 26,000*l.* of value.

18. The most striking increase in the returns of last year, over 1853, is in the value of implements and machinery introduced, which stands thus:—

	1853. £	*s.*	*d.*	1854. £	*s.*	*d.*
Agricultural implements	625	0	0	930	5	0
Machinery	390	0	0	2,206	8	2
	£1,015	0	0	3,136	13	2

This may be accounted for by the large quantity of machinery imported for the manufacture of sugar and flour, to the production of which the colonists are now turning their serious attention.

19. *Exports.*—The subjoined table exhibits the value of exports of colonial produce from this district for each year, from 1846 to 1854, both inclusive:—

	£	*s.*	*d.*
1846	15,409	7	9
1847	13,699	4	6
1848	10,683	17	4
1849	11,265	6	0
1850	15,613	12	3
1851	17,243	10	0
1852	20,164	16	6
1853	26,694	0	10
1854	37,039	15	0

This table is perhaps the most satisfactory proof I could afford your Lordship that this district is steadily progressing.

20. I may here mention that the total exports of Colonial and Foreign products from this district in 1854 was in value 43,599*l.* 2*s.*

21. A very large increase has again taken place in the quantity of wool exported. Last year its value amounted to 5,141*l.* 15*s.*; whereas that of 1853 was 3,556*l.*, and that of 1851, 300*l.* The greater portion of this export, however, was produced beyond the boundaries of the district.

V.—*Climate.*

THE WEATHER at PIETERMARITZBURG, 2,114 Feet above Mean Level of the Sea.

TABLE I.

1854.	Number of Days Cloudy or Misty throughout.	Number of Days clear throughout.	Number of Days clear in Forenoon.	Number of Days clear in Afternoon.	Number of Days in which Rain fell.	Number of Days in which Thunder and Lightning occurred.	Total Fall of Rain in each Month.
							In. Dec.
January	20	1	10	2	17	10	4·289
February	16	4	14	6	15	9	7·524
March	17	7	16	7	13	7	3·289
April	6	14	16	18	8	5	1·565
May	6	13	18	20	6	1	1·282
June	2	18	24	22	4	0	4·055
July	0	27	30	27	0	0	0·000
August	4	18	25	21	2	2	0·256
September	4	17	26	10	6	3	1·550
October	11	13	13	13	12	5	8·424
November	10	4	23	8	14	6	7·752
December	8	5	23	8	17	14	10·710
Totals	104	141	238	162	114	62	50·696

TABLE II.—AN ANALYSIS of the Direction of the Winds, with reference only to the Period of their Duration.

1854.	Forenoon.				Afternoon.				Total in each Month.			
	W.	S.	E.	N.	W.	S.	E.	N.	W.	S.	E.	N.
January	135	493	1,242	560	47	424	1,450	209	182	917	2,672	769
February	112	224	1,178	754	88	610	1,062	310	200	834	2,240	1 069
March	362	538	1,232	262	856	674	1,084	376	1,018	1,212	2,316	638
April	858	560	520	270	880	670	452	268	1,738	1,230	972	558
May	1,380	708	498	178	720	750	906	224	2,100	1,458	1,404	402
June	1,336	892	428	44	292	556	1,518	288	1,628	1,448	1,946	332
July	1,466	1,078	180	158	134	244	1,100	572	1,580	1,322	1,880	730
August	518	650	1,176	446	220	652	1,562	466	738	1,302	2,738	912
September	538	946	904	402	226	514	1,474	468	764	1,460	2,398	870
October	610	314	1,268	598	452	356	1,198	604	1,062	670	2,466	1,202
November	566	342	1,428	464	656	308	1,086	516	1,222	550	2.514	980
December	180	354	1,608	464	158	446	1,674	512	338	800	3,282	976
Totals	8,041	6,999	11,662	4,620	4,729	6,204	15,186	4,813	12,770	13,203	26,848	9,433

22. As shown in the accompanying tables, the seasons appear to be tolerably well defined. Comparatively little rain falls in the winter months. When, however, precipitation occurs in that season, it is usually of the character of the winter rains prevailing at the Cape of Good Hope, and unattended by great electrical disturbances, as in the other seasons. The annual rain fall, amounting only to fifty inches, is moderate. The greatest quantity in twenty-four hours rarely amounts to three inches; and the great number of perfectly and partially clear days is such as gives the climate features peculiar to tropical and intertropical regions. As shown in Table II., the wind blows longer from the eastward than from any other quarter; contrary to the popular belief that the moisture comes from the west, the east wind reaches its monthly maximum duration in the wet season, and descends to its minimum in the opposite or dry season. The ranges of the atmospheric pressure do not exceed eight tenths of an inch, and of the temperature eighty

degrees. Much, however, has yet to be learned on this important subject. I am happy, however, to observe that several meteorological stations have been established in various parts of the district, the results of which may occupy the attention of the Local Government on future occasions.

VI.—*Administration of Justice.*

23. The following returns show the number of cases, civil or criminal, disposed of in the District Court, from 1846 to 1854 inclusive:—

Civil Return.

Year.	Number of Original Final Decisions.	Number of Provisional Judgments.	Number of Decisions on Motions.	Number of Appeals from Magistrates.	Total.
1846	31	40	37	–	108
1847	14	8	32	–	54
1848	12	5	20	–	37
1849	14	21	32	–	67
1850	16	19	37	1	73
1851	19	35	34	–	88
1852	27	48	79	6	160
1853	15	20	53	7	95
1854	5	18	78	3	104

Criminal Return.

Year.	Murder.	Manslaughter.	Administering Poison with intent to Murder.	Rape.	Arson.	Sodomy.	Housebreaking and Theft.	Housebreaking with intent to Steal.	Theft.	Receiving Stolen Goods.	Fraud.	Perjury.	Forgery.	Assault.	Total.
1846	3	2	—	—	1	—	2	—	12	—	—	—	—	9	29
1847	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	1	1	—	2	1	—	—	7
1848	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1
1849	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	3	—	—	—	—	—	4
1850	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	6
1851	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	1	1	—	—	6
1852	4	1	—	1	—	—	1	—	3	—	—	1	1	—	12
1853	8	1	1	1	—	1	—	—	2	1	—	—	—	—	15
1854	5	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	5	—	2	—	—	2	15

With reference to this last return, it is important to bear in mind the explanation given by Lieut.-Governor Pine, in a note on a former report,—that the increase in the number of convictions in late years is to be taken as an indication, not of an increase in crime, but of more efficient means of detecting and punishing offenders.

(Signed) Colonel H. Cooper,
Acting Lieutenant Governor.

APPENDIX.

Sir, Pietermaritzburg, May 2, 1855.

We have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 21st July 1853, appointing us Commissioners for the purpose of inquiring into and reporting on the state of education in this district, and of your subsequent letter of 20th March last on the same subject.

With reference to the inquiries which we were instructed to make into the state and efficiency of the various Government schools, and of those receiving Government aid, we beg to refer to the reports of various sub-committees appointed from our number to examine the several schools then in existence.

We beg further to state, that at our last meeting on the 4th ultimo, after a lengthy discussion, we found ourselves unable to agree upon the terms of our final report; and it was therefore resolved that separate reports, containing the different views of the members of the Commission, should be drawn up, and we have now the honour to submit those reports for the information of his Honour the Acting Lieutenant Governor.

We have, &c.

(Signed) W. C. Sargeaunt, President.
James Green.
H. Pearse.
W. Campbell.
H. E. Faure.

Report of the undersigned members of the Commission appointed by letter of 21st July 1853 to report upon the State of Education in this district:—The Commissioners having been requested by letter from the Colonial Secretary, dated the 20th March 1855, to report upon that portion of the subject alluded to in the 6th paragraph of their letter of appointment, in which they are requested to suggest such a system of general education as may seem desirable and practicable.

Your Commissioners, with a view of forming a judgment on the point respecting which their opinion has been especially invited, have made some inquiries as to the state of education in the district, and find that two systems have been adopted by the Government:—

1st. At Pietermaritzburg and at D'Urban schools have been established and supported entirely by the Government, excepting a small fee paid weekly by the pupils.

2d. The Government has assisted schools in various places with annual grants, varying from 30*l.* to 50*l.*

The two schools at Pietermaritzburg and D'Urban have been examined by sub-committees appointed by the Commission, whose reports are referred to, and from which it appears that the average cost to Government of each child at Pietermaritzburg is nearly 3*l.* per annum, and the same at D'Urban. The Committee nevertheless report the school at Pietermaritzburg to be in an inefficient state from want of a larger staff of teachers; whilst the school at D'Urban is maintained in its present condition by a very considerable monthly outlay on the part of the master. The conclusion, therefore, to be drawn from both reports is, that the Government expenditure of 3*l.* per annum per child is insufficient, notwithstanding that the education is quite rudimentary, and nothing beyond what would be required in any school, wherever founded, in the district.

Your Commissioners understanding the population of the district to be at least 130,000, feel it impossible to recommend to the Government to adopt a system for which its resources are so inadequate.

Your Commissioners are strengthened in this conclusion by observing that at Pietermaritzburg the Government school educates about 90 children; the Wesleyan and Independent schools, which are partially assisted by the Government, educate together about 90 also.

The Church of England school and various private schools educate together about 180; or, 90 children in the Government school cost about 3*l.* per annum each; 90 ditto, Wesleyan and Independent, 1*l.* per annum each; 180 children in other schools cost nil.

Your Commissioners, seeing that in Pietermaritzburg one out of four go to the Government school, infer that the other schools must enjoy the confidence of the public at least to the same amount as the Government school.

It might probably be possible by an increased expenditure to place the Government school on such a footing as would drain the other schools of their scholars; but your Commissioners do not perceive any principle on which they can make such a recommendation.

Your Commissioners therefore turn to the second system, viz., that of assisting schools, and find there are eight schools aided, of which

2 belong to the Wesleyan Society;
1 „ „ Congregationalists;
2 are under the direction of missionaries (viz., Messrs. Posselt and Allison);
1 at Ladysmith is kept by Mr. Scott, a Presbyterian minister, who receives 50*l.* as minister and teacher;
2 viz., at Richmond and Pine Town, may be termed lay or Government schools.

Of these eight, six are more or less completely connected with religious bodies. Observing this, and knowing that Missionary Societies consider it their especial duty to promote the education of heathen children, and finding also that the present master at D'Urban is in holy orders in the English Church, and that the late and present masters of the Government school at Pietermaritzburg held office in their respective communions, your Commissioners feel that whatever system is adopted, the education will fall generally into the hands of religious bodies or religious men. Seeing then that from want of funds the Government must fail in carrying out any system of education exclusively its own, and as the earnestness and zeal of religious societies will, it is to be feared, if left to itself, fail on the same account, your Commissioners therefore recommend a system of co-operation as best calculated to bring into action the energies existing in the colony, and most likely to extend education furthest, with the limited resources at the disposal of the Government.

NATAL.

Your Commissioners therefore recommend the adoption of the following scheme, premising that they understand a laudable effort is being made in one county to originate within itself a school for the education of the children of the farmers and settlers:—

1st. That the district Government should have no schools exclusively its own.

2d. That religious societies, county councils, and town corporations establishing schools should be assisted on a graduated scale.

3d. That private schools might be assisted on the recommendation of either of the three bodies above mentioned.

4th. That the scale might be as follows:—

A school containing 30 children might receive 30*l.*

For every additional 10 children, 10*l.*

No school to receive more than 100*l.*

5th. That the Government have a discretionary power to receive or reject any application for assistance.

6th. That the resident magistrate, personally or by deputy, examine annually all schools within his division receiving assistance, and report to the Government.

7. That in every school receiving aid, the Holy Scriptures be read, and the school opened and closed daily with prayer.

Your Commissioners are aware, that were the education of all classes in the colony to become general, the proposed expenditure of 1*l.* per annum per head would exceed the resources of the Government; but your Commissioners can only look forward to education spreading gradually, and consider in the present state of the district a lower scale would fail of its object, whilst suggestion No. 5 places it in the power of Government to withhold by degrees its assistance from wealthy towns, and to throw its energies into the poorer parts of the district.

(Signed) W. C. Sargeaunt, President.
James Green.

Pietermaritzburg, 1st May 1855.

Report of the undersigned Commissioners of Education in Natal.

To his Honour Colonel Cooper, Acting Lieutenant Governor, Natal.

May it please your Honour,

We, the undersigned Commissioners of Education in Natal, have to apologize for an apparent neglect of duty on our part in not sending in a report long ere now, as required by the authority of Lieutenant Governor Pine. In vindication of ourselves it seems necessary to state, that in common with our fellow Commissioners we promptly entered on the responsible duties imposed on us, and examined the various schools of the district in terms of the letter of instructions originally addressed to us. The materials for drawing up a report were thus prepared before the close of the year 1853, and it is no fault of ours that such report was not made in due time, as we were never convened for that purpose. We regret this delay the more on account of the diversity of opinion that now appears to exist among the Commissioners on some matters which we deem to be of vital importance.

As the sub-committees which were appointed for the greater convenience of the business of the Commission had already reported separately to the general body, it was unanimously agreed that these should be transmitted in their original state. As these reports contain the statistics and general topics connected with the schools supported either in whole or part by Government, we shall confine ourselves for the present to a brief statement of their number and operations.

I. At the period of our appointment in 1853 there were the two public schools of Pietermaritzburg and D'Urban, commonly called Government schools, being rented and endowed by the local Government, the former at an annual expense of 259*l.*, and the latter at 260*l.* Besides these there were two other schools, one at Richmond and the other at Pine Town, receiving each a partial endowment of 50*l.* per annum; one infant school in Pietermaritzburg receiving the same amount, and one at Verulam, for European and coloured children, receiving 40*l.* per annum.

These were all examined by the Commissioners, and upon the whole were found in a satisfactory state. A glance at the reports by the sub-committees will show the number of scholars in attendance, the branches usually taught, and the efficiency of the teachers. It will also appear from these reports that the want of a sufficient supply of books and other school requisites appeared, in the estimation of the examinators, greatly to paralyze the efforts of the teachers, and to retard the progress of the children. Entering fully into this opinion, we shall hereafter suggest a remedy. Since the above-named schools were first examined by us, several others have been actually endowed, or have received the promise of partial aid from Government, viz., one coloured school at the Edendale (Rev. Mr. Allison's) Mission Station, receiving 50*l.* per annum, one coloured school in Pietermaritzburg (under the management of a committee of the subscribers of various denominations of Christians), receiving 40*l.* per annum; one school at New Germany for European children, receiving also 40*l.* per annum; one school at Ladysmith, recently established, receiving 50*l.*, and one at York promised the same amount; as also an application on behalf of the Educational Institution at present in course of erection at Grey

Town. None of these last-named schools (of which some are not yet in operation) have been examined by the Commissioners, with the exception of the coloured school in Pietermaritzburg, before it received Government aid. From this brief statement it will appear that the Government have not only supported two public schools in the two chief towns of Pietermaritzburg and D'Urban, but have also granted liberal aid to the various other above-named schools, which are all conducted on the same broad and non-sectarian basis.

II. In consequence of the adverse opinion expressed by some members of the Commission in regard to the two Government schools of Pietermaritzburg and D'Urban, we are the more anxious to direct your Honour's special attention to them. As none of the undersigned were present at the last examination of the D'Urban Government school, we cannot speak from personal knowledge of its efficiency; yet we are happy to say that the sub-committee who lately examined it have, by their report, conveyed a much more favourable impression of its present condition, than when it was examined in 1853. With regard to the public school of Pietermaritzburg, we have no hesitation in giving it as our opinion, after a second examination, that it is conducted at present with great efficiency by Mr. Thomson, and supplies to all classes the advantages of education, without reference to sect or party. It would appear that the number of children attending this seminary has fallen off to some extent during the past year; but this we believe has been occasioned by the opening of another public school in the immediate vicinity, under the auspices of the Church of England. Still the Government school maintains its position in public estimation, as appears from the fact that 117 children have attended it for instruction in the course of the year ending 31st December 1854, with an average attendance of 91. Now that the salary of the master is reduced from 240*l.* per annum to 150*l.* we would recommend that an assistant or second master should be assigned to this school, in order that the head master may have it in his power to devote more time and attention to classics and mathematics, &c. Mr. Thomson has been obliged to supply the place of an assistant master during the past year, in taking charge of the junior classes; and the master also pays out of the school fees a mistress, who takes charge of the female industrial department. This last-named branch we consider of great importance, and one that deserves special encouragement from the Government.

We would here remark that it appears to us the schoolroom is at present encumbered with extraneous furniture. Space needful for the proper classification and comfort of the children is thus occupied, and the back door giving access to the offices and playground thereby blocked up. We would therefore suggest the removal of this furniture, at all events during school hours.

The gallery used for conducting the general lessons (in accordance with the modern system of training) is unsightly and unsafe, and requires much to be remodelled.

We would further suggest that the playground be properly laid out and enclosed; also that a simple apparatus be provided for gymnastics and other exercises, so advantageous to the physical and moral training of the pupils. It is further necessary that the out-door offices for the female children be entirely separated from those used by the boys. These indispensable improvements we conceive may be effected at a comparatively trifling cost, and would render still more efficient an institution which has hitherto afforded the advantages of an united secular and scriptural education free from all sectarian bias; and we trust the period is not distant when this seminary will be supplied with two masters, and a mistress for the industrial female department, so as to render it substantially a model training school for supplying the country districts with teachers, and thus at once help to keep up the standard of education, and also to diffuse its benefits over the colony at large.

III. With respect to the sixth paragraph contained in the letter of instructions addressed to us originally by authority of Lieut. Governor Pine, and to which our special attention has been recently directed by your Honour as Acting Lieutenant Governor, we beg respectfully to report, that having taken the subject contained in the said paragraph into our serious consideration in all its bearings, we are most decidedly of opinion that the Government, instead of itself establishing and exclusively maintaining public schools, may also with great advantage render pecuniary assistance to schools already established or to be established by private exertion, upon the following conditions, viz.:—

1. That such schools be under the management of local committees, fairly representing the interests of the parents or children in their respective neighbourhoods or townships.

2. That the parties soliciting Government aid be required to prove that there are at least fifteen children in the place without the means of instruction, and consequently that the new erection does not interfere with any other school receiving Government aid.

3. That the teacher, on whose behalf such gratuity is solicited, be first examined and approved of by the Commissioners of Education before any grant of public money be made.

4. That the recipients of such Government aid undertake to pursue in their schools the same system of secular education as in the present Government schools, subject simply to the condition that some portion of the Holy Scriptures shall be daily read in the vernacular tongue. And

5. That all schools receiving Government aid, in addition to the supervision of their own local committees, be subject to the periodical inspection of the Commissioners of Education, or of some officer specially appointed for that purpose. On this head we would suggest—

1. That, instead of regulating the gratuities by the amount of money arising from school fees and other private sources, the several teachers be classified and paid in proportion to their respective merit and the importance of the neighbourhoods in which they labour.

2. In consequence of the present inadequate supply of books and other school requisites, and the extreme difficulty of procuring such things in this district through any private channel, we would respectfully recommend your Honour to devise some plan for procuring the necessary supply for all schools receiving aid from the public treasury. We understand the Commissioners of National Education for Ireland are in the habit of granting supplies at cost price to the colonies, when applied to; and we are of opinion that if your Honour's Government would make such an application they would thereby do much to advance the interests of education in Natal, and might have the necessary advances of money repaid by requiring the several teachers to dispose of the school requisites at such a price as would cover the original outlay.

3. We would also give it as our opinion that a permanent board of education be appointed, fairly representing the religious and educational interests of the community of this district.

IV. Our remarks, we fear, have already extended too far, yet a sense of the paramount importance of the subject in hand constrains us to crave your Honour's indulgence for a few moments more. Called upon to report on matters vitally concerning the spiritual and temporal interests of our infant community, and confident that we give expression to the educational views of a large majority of the inhabitants of European descent in Natal, we would deeply deplore the up-breaking of the present Government schools, or the introduction of the sectarian element into a system which, up to this period, has wrought so harmoniously.

At a time when such a distinguished statesman as Lord John Russell, and others of every shade of religious and political opinions (whose views command respect), are labouring throughout Great Britain so strenuously to establish and promote a system of united and non-sectarian education, and when Sir George Grey seems to be pursuing a similar course in seeking to elevate and extend the blessings of education throughout the Cape Colony; we earnestly hope that nothing will influence your Honour's Government to turn aside from the liberal and enlightened course hitherto pursued, or tempt them to introduce such discordant elements as must necessarily compel the various religious denominations amongst us to erect separate schools for the education of the children of their own peculiar sect; but that, following the example of the mother country, the local Government will labour yet more strenuously to extend the blessings of civilization without distinction among all classes of the community in this distant part of Her Majesty's empire.

Should, however, your Honour dissent from the views above expressed, and rather incline to give effect to those entertained by the members of Commission differing from us in opinion, while deprecating such a result, deeply impressed with the mischievous consequences which in our apprehension would inevitably ensue, we would therefore pray your Honour to submit this our report to the Right Honourable the Secretary of State for the Colonies, before the adoption of any measure contrary to the system of Government education as hitherto pursued in Natal, to the principles laid down in Lieutenant Governor Pine's Letter of Instructions to the Commissioners of Education, and contrary to the views which we, the undersigned Commissioners of Education for Natal, have thus laid before your Honour.

(Signed) H. E. Faure.
H. Pearse.
W. Campbell.

Pietermaritzburg,
May 2, 1855.

PART IV.

AUSTRALIAN COLONIES AND NEW ZEALAND.

PART IV.—AUSTRALIAN COLONIES AND NEW ZEALAND.

NEW SOUTH WALES.

No. 31.

NEW SOUTH WALES.

No. 31.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor-General Sir W. DENISON to the Right Honourable Lord JOHN RUSSELL, M.P.

(No. 132.) Government House, Sydney, August 23, 1855.

(Received December 29, 1855.)

MY LORD,

I HAVE the honour to forward herewith the Blue Book for the year 1854, and to submit the following remarks to your Lordship upon some of the subjects which are brought therein under notice.

Taxes and Duties.

1. These are the same as were raised in 1853, with the exception of the duty on spirits, which was raised by the Act 18 Vict. No. 24.; brandy and gin from 6*s.* to 9*s.* per gallon; whiskey and rum from 4*s.* to 6*s.* The duty upon spirits distilled in the colony was by the same Act raised from 3*s.* 8*d.* to 5*s.* 8*d.* per gallon, the remission of 4*d.* per gallon being allowed in order to cover the duty upon the sugar used by the distillers.

2. The revenue for the year 1854 under the various heads, as shown by the Table, amounted to 640,718*l.* 8*s.* Of this the sum contributed by the customs was 405,720*l.* 10*s.* 11*d.*, and the duty upon colonially distilled spirits amounted to 35,550*l.* 8*s.* 8*d.*

3. The expenditure, as shown under separate heads, amounted to 750,293*l.* 13*s.* 8*d.*, showing an excess of expenditure over income of 109,575*l.* 5*s.* 8*d.* This, however, was covered by the unappropriated balance to the credit of the revenue on 1st January 1854, amounting to 139,791*l.* 16*s.* 1*d.*; the balance, therefore, to the credit of the revenue, on 1st January 1855, was 30,216*l.* 10*s.* 5*d.*

4. The statement of the revenue and expenditure of the fund reserved by schedule A. of the imperial Act 13 and 14 Vict. cap. 59. shows that it has been necessary to supplement these schedules out of the territorial revenues to a great extent. The sum taken from this source to supplement part 1. of schedule (A.) appears to have amounted to 13,769*l.* 0*s.* 11*d.*; but there appears to have been a balance in hand on the 1st January 1855 of 3,355*l.* 1*s.* 1*d.*, to the credit of this head of the schedule. The sum borrowed to supplement head 2. was 11,807*l.* 11*s.* 11*d.*; this, however, left a balance of 1,973*l.* 15*s.* 2*d.* to the credit of this head.

5. The police reward fund shows a steady increase; the balance in hand at the commencement of the year being 2,530*l.* 6*s.* 5*d.*, and at the end, after paying all the claims made upon it for gratuities to the police themselves for meritorious conduct, length of service, &c., and to the widows of some who died, there was a balance of 4,814*l.* 17*s.* 9*d.*

6. The territorial revenue for 1854 reached 557,735*l.* 0*s.* 5*d.*; of this, however, 214,679*l.* 15*s.* 0*d.* was borrowed, the actual receipt from the sale and leasing of crown lands amounted to 343,055*l.* 5*s.* 5*d.*; there was a balance of 122,307*l.* 4*s.* 5*d.* available at the beginning of the year; making a total of 680,042*l.* 4*s.* 10*d.* on the credit side of the account, while the expenditure under the various heads shown reached 627,984*l.* 14*s.* 1*d.*, leaving thus a balance of 52,057*l.* 10*s.* 9*d.* to the credit of the revenue on 1st January 1855. In pages 104 and 105 of the Blue Book, an account is given of the debt chargeable on the territorial revenue, which amounted on the 1st January 1855 to 372,000*l.* for immigration, the interest of which is 17,170*l.* 4*s.* 2*d.* yearly In addition, however, to this, other sums, amounting in all to 200,000*l.*, have been borrowed on the credit of this revenue, for the purpose of assisting the Sydney and Hunter River railway companies, the annual interest payable on which is 9,797*l.* 19*s.* 4½*d.* The Government has also guaranteed to the share-

holders in these railways interest at the rate of five per cent. to the Sydney company, and four per cent. to the Hunter River company, under which head an annual payment of 8,722*l.* can be claimed. However, by an Act passed in the course of the session of 1854, the Government has been empowered to purchase the stock of these two railway companies; and the amount which has been advanced to them, together with that required for the purchase of the stock, must be looked upon as a permanent debt for the construction of the railways in question, the interest of which will, it is trusted, be more than paid in a few years from the profits derived from the traffic upon them.

7. The emigrants sent out in accordance with the conditions of the Act 16 Vict. No. 42., amended by the Act 18 Vict. No. 29., have repaid a portion of the cost of their passage. A sum of 18,566*l.* was received from them in the course of the year.

8. The table showing the state of the railway deposits account on the 31st December 1854 serves to indicate the rate at which the capital of the two companies was subscribed and applied. As these railways have been purchased by the Government, this table will not find a place in future Blue Books.

9. The revenue arising from the leasing of the clergy and school estates is increasing slowly; but there is ample demand for this revenue were it twenty times as great as at present. The net balance in the Treasury on the 1st January 1855 appears to have been 5,426*l.* 19*s.* 7*d.* This, however, will be absorbed in the demands made by the different religious communities for extension of means to provide religious instruction, and to give aid to schools.

10. On comparing the revenue of 1854 with that of the previous year, the increase will appear to have been very great. The receipts for 1853 were 987,476*l.* 15*s.* 8*d.*, including, not only the proceeds from the sale and leasing of Crown lands, but also 158,752*l.* 10*s.* 10*d.* from the sale of debentures. The revenue of 1854 amounted to 1,239,147*l.* 8*s.* 0*d.*, of which 234,678*l.* 15*s.* was borrowed. The actual increase in the receipts from the ordinary sources of revenue was 175,743*l.* 8*s.* 10*d.*, or about twenty-one per cent. On reference to the particular items it will be seen that the increase in the duties upon imported articles was 50,782*l.* 1*s.* 5*d.*, or about twelve and a half per cent. The receipts from the duty on colonial spirits show an increase of 6,795*l.* 17*s.* 8*d.*, or about twenty-three per cent. The increase of population from various sources would account for an increase of about 8·6 per cent.; the remainder must be due to the increased consumption among the population generally, the high rates of wages having placed at the disposal of the working classes a large amount of money to expend upon articles of luxury; for instance, the spirits consumed in 1853 amounted to 1,600,311 gallons, or at the rate of 6·9 gallons per individual, while in 1854 the consumption was 1,800,552 gallons, or at the rate of 7·16 gallons per individual. In the same way, 1,598,412 lbs. of tobacco were consumed in 1853, while the quantity in 1854 amounted to 1,831,864 lbs.; an increase of fourteen and a half per cent. The explanation, however, given in the margin of the table of the cause of the increase or decrease under each head, is sufficiently clear to render any further comment unnecessary.

11. The expenditure in 1853 is stated to have been 682,621*l.* 5*s.* 10*d.*, while that of 1854 is shown to have reached 1,136,568*l.* 16*s.* 11*d.*, the increase amounting to 453,947*l.* 11*s.* 1*d.*, being an addition of sixty-six per cent. to the expenditure of 1853. On analysing, however, this extraordinary increase, it will be seen that nearly half of it is due to the additional outlay upon the public works, and for the introduction of immigrants, the expenditure upon the former of these having exceeded that of 1853 by 104,884*l.*, and upon the latter by 117,820*l.* There is, however, an increase shown upon nearly every item of expenditure; and this can be traced to the rise in the price of labour, and consequently of the means of subsistence; a necessary result of the discovery of gold in this and in the adjoining colony.

12. The expenditure on account of the superintendence and maintenance of convicts originally sent from England amounted in 1854 to 9,214*l.* 11*s.* 6*d.* Of these there appear to have been 68 male and female invalids, 103 male and female lunatics, while 53 were either under sentence of hard labour or under detention. The number of these latter will of course decrease rapidly; but an increase in the number of lunatics and invalids may perhaps be expected.

13. Under the head of local revenues, the money received from tolls upon the different roads throughout the colony is included. These roads are under

NEW SOUTH WALES.

the management of local trustees, and it is unnecessary for me to enter into any specific details with regard to these tolls or their application, further than to say that the roads of the colony are in a most wretched state, and that the funds raised by tolls, supplemented as they are by large grants from the general revenue, are altogether inadequate to maintain them in a decent state of repair. The main local revenues, however, are those which are placed in the hands of commissioners, to be employed in paving, lighting, draining, and supplying with water the city of Sydney. These funds are derived in the first place from rates levied under the authority of different Acts of Council, from the rent of markets, and from fines and fees, and in the second from an endowment granted from the general revenue. The receipts under all these heads appear to have amounted to 35,917*l.* 14*s.* in 1854; while the expenditure, in consequence of the very heavy outlay for the repair of streets and city improvements, exceeded the receipts to the extent of 15,782*l.* 16*s.* 3*d.* The accounts of the receipts and expenditure for the supply of water and for the sewerage of the city of Sydney are kept separate, large works having been commenced under the authority of the Acts of Council, 17 Vict. No. 34. and 35., for bringing an ample supply of water into the city, and for carrying out an effective system of sewerage. The funds for these works are provided for by loans, the interest of which is secured upon the general revenue of the colony, but which will be subsequently defrayed out of the proceeds of special rates which the Commissioners are authorized to levy.

14. Under the head military expenditure the works of defence for Sydney Harbour have been enumerated, as proposed by Lieut.-Colonel Gordon, R.E., and in part sanctioned by the legislature. The works at Middle and South Heads were commenced, but have been suspended, as it has been thought better to commence with those which more immediately contribute to the defence of the city. The outlay on these works has amounted to 4,210*l.* 15*s.* 7*d.*, under the authority of an Act of Council, 18 Vict. No. 8. Some cavalry, artillery, and riflemen have been embodied as volunteers. The numbers mustering for each of these services are not great; but the men drill pretty regularly, and have shown themselves able to manœuvre steadily in connexion with the regular troops.

15. The principal public works upon which any large outlay of money has been made in the course of 1854 are, "the mint," "the public abattoir on Glebe Island," "the dry dock on Cockatoo Island," "the circular quay around a portion of Sydney Cove." The mint has been completed, and the machinery is now at work. The abattoir will, it is hoped, be in operation in the course of 1856. The dry dock on Cockatoo Island, and the works in connexion with it, have been carried on satisfactorily, and will probably be completed in 1856. The work at the circular quay was nearly completed in 1854, but the cost appears to have been in excess of the estimate. The total amount expended upon the various public works in 1854 was 139,003*l.* 1*s.* 2*d.*

16. Under the head of education the returns show that 203 schools have been in operation during the year 1854, on the books of which 18,404 children have entered their names. The expenditure upon these schools amounted to 32,319*l.* 1*s.* 6*d.*, of which 20,181*l.* 2*s.* 6*d.* were contributed by the Government, and 12,158*l.* 1*s.* 2*d.* were derived from private sources, including, of course, payments made by the parents of the children. The average cost of each school may be taken at 160*l.* per annum; and if the actual expenditure be divided by the number of children on the books, the charge for each would appear to be about 1*l.* 15*s.* per annum. I am bound, however, to inform your Lordship, that I am by no means satisfied with the character of the education dispensed to the children under the present system. There is ample evidence to prove that a radical change must take place in all the arrangements connected with the schools before any satisfactory results can be anticipated; and the subject will be one of the earliest which will be brought by me under the consideration of the legislature.

17. The value of the imports of the colony during the year 1854 is estimated at 5,981,063*l.*; a reduction on the value of those of the preceding year of 361,364*l.* I may remark, however, that these values, being founded on the invoice prices of the goods, are not to be depended upon to any extent for the purpose of establishing a comparison between the importations of different years; for instance, the value of the tobacco imported in 1854 is taken at 100,472*l.*, while in 1853 it was estimated at 139,014*l.*, indicating a falling off

in the value in 1854 to the extent of 38,542*l.* On reference, however, to the quantities in the two years, it will be seen that in 1853 there were 1,598,412 lbs. of tobacco imported, while in 1854 the quantity was 1,800,864 lbs.; an increase of 202,452 lbs.; so that while the quantity increased to the extent of 12·6 per cent., the value decreased to the extent of 28 per cent. A reduction corresponding to that which has affected the imports of the colony has taken place in the exports; the value of these in 1854 amounting to 4,050,126*l.*, while in 1853 the value was taken at 4,523,346*l.*; a difference of 473,220*l.* or 10¼ per cent. This diminution in the value of the exports is due to a falling off in the quantity of gold sent to England. In 1853 the value of this was estimated at 1,781,172*l.*, while in 1854 this amounted to 773,209*l.*; a reduction of 1,007,963*l.*; so that, abstracting the gold, the return of exports would show an increase of 534,743*l.* or about 19½ per cent.

On reference to the particular items it will be seen that a great addition has been made to the quantity of wool exported; the weight as shown in the table for 1853 being 16,477,869 lbs., while in 1854 it is shown as 18,976,300 lbs.; an increase of 2,498,431 lbs., or upwards of fifteen per cent., indicating a corresponding increase in the number of sheep, and consequently in the extent of land occupied for pastoral purposes.

19. Under the head of agriculture there would appear to be an increase in the land under cultivation to the extent of 7,409 acres. The quantity of land under wheat is stated at 74,537 acres, and the yield in bushels at 1,334,541, or at the rate of 17·9, or, say, eighteen bushels per acre. The quantity of wheat required to feed the population of this colony, which according to the returns may be taken at 251,315, cannot be put at less than eight bushels per head, or about 2,000,000 bushels, which would require for its production about 112,000 acres of average land; and as the increase to the population during the last year, as shown in page 827, amounted to 20,000, or about twelve and a half per cent., an addition should be made to the wheat land of about 10,000 acres annually. The increase during the last year has only been to the extent of 7,409 acres, of which about 3,000 has been devoted to the production of food for cattle. The result of an analysis of the whole return will show that the colony is more than ever dependent upon other countries for its supply of food.

20. Under the head of manufactures, mines, and fisheries, it is only necessary to notice that the coal trade has increased in the course of the year, and that a very rapid development of that branch of industry will probably be exhibited, as the demand for coal is increasing daily, and that increased facilities will be given for bringing it to market by the railway now in course of construction at Newcastle.

There is a falling of, as before stated, in the quantity of gold exported. In future years this return will be useless, as a large quantity of the gold raised in the colony will be coined at the mint, and will not in the returns be distinguished from other gold coin exported.

21. There appears to be a steady increase in the amount of the land sold, 73,675 acres having been brought to market in 1853, while the quantity in the return for 1854 is 83,396 acres. The amount realized in 1853 was 257,847*l.* 17*s.* 11*d.*, and in 1854, 272,078*l.* 18*s.* 11*d.* As increased facilities are given to the settlers in the interior to bring down their produce to market, by the introduction of railroads and such easy and rapid means of communication, so will the demand for land increase and the value which it will bring in the market, and so will the supply of produce available for the support of the population be brought more on a par with the demand.

22. The return of gaols and prisoners is in the usual form; but some great change will be required shortly in all the arrangements for secondary punishments. At present these are made in some sort to harmonize with the old rules, by which the prisoners sentenced to transportation have a portion of their punishment remitted, by the issue of indulgences in the shape of tickets of leave and conditional pardons; but as the sentence of transportation is now commuted into certain periods of imprisonment with hard labour, the rules which applied to the transported convict cease to be applicable to the prisoner under a colonial sentence of imprisonment, and require to be essentially modified.

NEW SOUTH WALES.

23. A copy of the Tables, showing the statistics of the colony for the last ten years, has been appended to the Blue Book. A reference to these will show at a glance the rate at which the colony has progressed, and the mode in which the various branches of industry have been acted upon by the altered circumstances of the colony. The addition will I think prove useful, being in fact a summary of the information contained in former Blue Books, arranged and classified under proper heads, and thus affording facilities for comparison, which would otherwise require the expenditure of a good deal of labour.

I have, &c.

The Right Hon. Lord John Russell, &c. &c. &c.

W. DENISON.

VICTORIA.

VICTORIA.

No. 32.

No. 32.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor Sir CHARLES HOTHAM to the Right Hon. Sir GEORGE GREY.

(No. 19.)

Toorac, near Melbourne, January 25, 1855.

SIR, (Received April 7, 1855.)

I HAVE the honour herewith to transmit the Blue Book of this colony for the year ended on the 31st December 1853.

Referring, as its contents do, to the condition of the colony at a period antecedent to my assuming the government, I can scarcely be expected to dwell at any length upon details; but I may be permitted to notice briefly some of the more interesting heads as they appear on the face of these returns.

Taxes—Duties.

2. The amount of revenue derived from the duties on spirits was, in

	£	s.	d.
1853 - - - -	561,317	11	7
1852 - - -	186,491	15	6
Showing an increase of -	£374,825	16	1

which, I am informed, is attributable to the increase of population, and the augmented wealth of the inhabitants of the colony.

3. The duties on tobacco were in the year

	£	s.	d.
1853 - - - -	118,869	5	9
1852 - - - -	69,338	14	8
Showing an increase of -	£49,530	11	1

which is attributable to the same cause.

4. The whole of the Customs duties amounted in the year

	£	s.	d.
1853 - - - -	773,473	16	11
1852 - - - -	318,981	17	7
Showing an increase of -	£454,491	19	4

5. The port and harbour dues were abolished at the latter part of 1852, with the exception of pilotage, under the provisions of the Act of Council 16 Vict., No. 12. The *pilotage* amounted to in the year

	£	s.	d.
1853 - - - -	15,672	11	1
1852 - - - -	11,786	3	3
Showing an increase of -	£3,886	7	10

Post Offices.

6. The revenue produced by this department, and the expenditure, stand thus:

	Revenue. £	s.	d.	Expenditure. £	s.	d.
1853 - - -	25,733	12	11	- - 73,036	1	0
1852 - - -	12,453	12	9	- - 25,312	0	8

Newspapers (under certain restrictions) were exempted from postage.

Fees of Office.

7. The revenue derived from this source was, in

	£	s.	d.
1853 - - - -	21,268	12	6
1852 - - - -	9,089	1	2
Showing an increase of -	£12,179	11	4

This increase principally is stated to have arisen from the additional population and augmented business.

8. The assessment on stock beyond the settled districts, under the Act of Council, 11 Vict., No. 18, expired on 31st December 1852.

9. The *fees on licences* to occupy Crown Lands, which are part of the Crown Revenue, were in

	£	s.	d.
1853 - - -	29,860	1	9
1852 - - - -	23,815	1	7
Showing an increase of -	£6,045	0	2

Arising from the number of annual leases, consequent upon the spreading of the inhabitants.

Those on licences to cut timber, or camp on Crown Lands, produced in

	£	s.	d.
1853 - - - -	12,166	8	1
1852 - - - -	1,719	15	6
Showing an increase of -	£10,446	12	7

10. The *Gold Fund*, including escort fees and custody fees, amounting to, in

	£	s.	d.
1853 - - - -	720,814	18	7
1852 - - - -	438,845	10	0
Showing an increase of -	£281,969	8	7

Consequent upon the number of licences and escort fees.

11. The *Total General Revenue*, including the gold Revenue was, in

	£	s.	d.
1853 - - - -	1,648,309	16	4
1852 - - - -	846,214	17	7
Showing an increase of -	£802,094	18	9

Crown Revenue.

12. The territorial revenue produced in 1853:—

	£	s.	d.
Land sales	1,496,714	9	1
Licences and leases to occupy Crown Lands	29,860	1	9
Licences to cut timber, &c.	12,166	8	1
Immigration remittances	3,260	15	6
Rents of quarries, &c.	2,706	1	4
Proceeds of sales	122	15	6
Miscellaneous receipts	8,998	19	0
	£1,553,829	10	3

The charges on the same revenue in 1853 were:—

	£	s.	d.
Survey sale, and management	36,908	5	8
Immigration	185,879	3	2
Aborigines	2,712	13	7
Special grants	5,075	19	9
Miscellaneous payments	15,249	1	0
	£245,825	3	2

13. The accounts of the colony are kept in pounds, shillings, and pence sterling.

Local Revenue.

15. The total revenue of the City of Melbourne amounted, in 1853, to 109,636*l.* 6*s.* 5*d.*, and the town of Geelong amounted to 20,549*l.* 19*s.* 2*d.*

Military.

16. The expenditure incurred by the colony for its military protection, in 1853, was 74,090*l.* 17*s.* 7*d.*, as reported by the Deputy Assistant Commissary General (see page 90).

Pensions.

17. The pension list for 1853 amounted to 1,364*l.*

18. The foreign Consuls in Melbourne, in the year 1853, were those of Portugal, &c., Free Hanseatic City of Hamburgh, Sweden, Norway, Spain, Republic of Chili, Denmark, United States of America, Belgium, Netherlands, and France.

Population.

19. Population was as follows on 31st December:

1851.	1852.	1853.
83,350	148,627	198,496.

Supposed number of aborigines, 2,500; but I would refer to the note on page 508.

Ecclesiastical.

20. The expenses under this head are, for the year 1853, 21,007*l.* 7*s.* 6*d.*

The number of clergymen in the colony is returned thus:

Church of England	22
Presbyterian	20
Wesleyan	11
Independent	13
Roman Catholic	22
Baptist	4
Other Protestants	3
Jews	1

Education.

21. The expenses during that year amounted to 40,291*l.* 14*s.* 1*d.*

The number of scholars at the different schools is stated to be:

	Males.	Females.	Total.
Denominational schools	5,316	4,201	9,517
National schools	955	798	1,753
Private schools	925	838	1,763
Total	7,196	5,837	13,033

Exchanges—Monies.

22. The paper currency in circulation was, in

	£	*s.*	*d.*
1852	849,434	10	7
1853	1,657,859	3	9

The coin and bullion in the colony cannot be ascertained.

Imports and Exports.

23. The imports amounted to,

	£	*s.*	*d.*
1853	15,842,637	0	0
1852	4,069,742	0	0
Showing an increase of	£11,772,895	0	0

The exports amounted to,

	£	*s.*	*d.*
1853	11,061,543	17	0
1852	7,451,549	0	0
Showing an increase of	£3,609,994	17	0

The gold exported during the year amounted to,

Quantity.	Value.
Oz. 2,497,723 15 16	£8,644,529

24. It only remains for me to add, that upon inquiry as to the cause of the long delay which has occurred in preparing this volume, it has been explained to me that it has arisen from the difficulty experienced in obtaining correct returns of some of the more valuable and interesting statistics.

I have, &c.
(Signed) CHAS. HOTHAM.

The Right Hon. Sir George Grey, Bart.,
&c. &c. &c.

VAN DIEMEN'S LAND.

VAN DIEMEN'S LAND.

No. 33.

No. 33.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor Sir H. E. F. YOUNG to the Right Honourable Sir GEORGE GREY, Baronet.

(No. 68.)

Government House, Hobart Town,
May 31, 1855.

SIR, (Received September 21, 1855.)

I HAVE the honour to transmit the Blue Book of the year 1854, and a condensed summary of the principal statistics of the year.

2. *The Population*

On the 31st December 1854 was 64,874 ; namely,—
22,661 male adults,
16,518 female adults, and
25,695 children.

The number of aborigines is 16.

The number of convicts in the island included in the above population was 11,718, of whom 8,408 are males and 3,310 females, and of these 2,947 were maintained by the Government ; viz. 2,162 males and 785 females; the remaining 6,246 males and 2,525 females earn their own livelihood. 4,058 tickets-of-leave and 2,027 conditional pardons were granted in 1854.

The births were 2,603 ; viz. 1,339 males and 1,264 females.

The deaths of all ages (including 128 convicts), registered in 1854, were 2,056, of whom 1,149 were males and 779 females.

The marriages were 1,343 ; of these 331 were widowers or widows, and 228 were under age. In 1,073 cases the registers were signed by marks. 685 marriages took place in Hobart Town, and 225 in Launceston.

3. *Immigration.*

4,172 immigrants were introduced at the public expense ; 5,353 paid their own passages. 11,280 persons left the island in 1854 ; viz., 7,281 men, 1,885 women, and 481 children, for the colony of Victoria; 943 adults and 121 children, for New South Wales ; 100 adults and 17 children, for New Zealand ; and 253 adults and 65 children, for Great Britain.

9,656 of those who left the colony in 1854 have always been free, and 1,624 had been convicts.

The first-named class of departures comprised 6,803 males, 2,147 females, and 706 children ; the other class, 1,435 males and 189 females.

The excess of emigration over immigration in 1854 was 1,755 souls.

4. *Climate and Disease.*

The rainfall in 1854 was 30·56 inches. The mean temperature of the year was 53·03. The cases treated in the colonial hospitals were 3,449, of which 538 were diseases of the lungs. The total deaths were 168, of which 58 were from diseases of the lungs.

In the lunatic asylum, in 1854, there were 239 inmates, of whom 153 were convicts.

5. *Crime.*

In the supreme court there were 105 convictions for felonies and misdemeanors.

There were 7 criminals executed, of whom all were or had been convicts.

At the quarter sessions at Hobart Town, Launceston, New Norfolk, and Richmond, the number of convictions for offences against the person in 1854 were 35, and against property 138.

6. *Judicial.*

The judicial establishment cost, in 1854, 23,319*l.* 2*s.* 6*d.*

The civil cases tried in the supreme court in 1854 before juries were 40 in number. The actions tried in the various courts of request throughout the colony were 430. The expense of these courts to Government was 2,958*l.*

The police and gaols cost the Colonial Government, in 1854, 62,763*l.*, and the Imperial Government 24,000*l.*

The insolvencies in 1854 have been 43 in number.

The mortgages on land registered in 1854 were 293, for 316,463*l.*

7. *Public Worship and Education.*

The ecclesiastical establishment cost the Government, in 1854, 23,988*l.* 9*s.* 8*d.*

The number of schools aided by the Government was 50, the aid being 7,269*l.*

In the orphan schools there were 422 children, of whom 302 were charged to convict expenditure.

The establishment for 16 aborigines caused an expenditure of 2,006*l.* in 1854.

8. *Imports and Exports.*

The imports are valued at 2,604,680*l.*; viz.

	£
From Great Britain	1,776,694
From British colonies	696,296
From United States	36,078
From British North America	317
From foreign states	95,295

The exports are valued at 1,433,021*l.*, of which 1,219,021*l.* was the produce of the colony.

The portion exported to Great Britain was 424,575*l.*, and to British colonies 1,007,287*l.*

The tonnage inwards and outwards was 399,010 tons. The number of vessels built in the island was ten; the tonnage 401.

9 vessels engaged in the fisheries entered inwards of 2,690 tons, and 14 outwards of 3,680 tons.

The steam vessels registered at Hobart Town and Launceston in 1854 were two of wood and 9 of iron; tonnage 1,766; power 744. Some are employed between Tasmania and Victoria and New South Wales, and others as ferry or passenger boats on the rivers and coasts of the island.

9. *Revenue and Expenditure.*

The colonial revenue was 275,554*l.* 15*s.* 10*d.*

The colonial expenditure was 276,650*l.* 5*s.* 10*d.*

The land revenue was 112,225*l.* 12*s.* 7*d.*

The expenditure from the land fund was 89,681*l.* 16*s.* 9*d.*

The coin in the colony is reckoned at 1,035,368*l.*; the assets of the banks at 2,409,845*l.*; their liabilities at 1,900,777*l.*

The post office revenue was 8,198*l.*; the expenditure 16,291*l.* The post offices and receiving houses are 65; the number of persons employed 95; the extent of post roads 679 miles. The letters sent from Hobart Town were 231,597; the newspapers 218,000; the letters received 204,414; the newspapers received 122,500.

There is a penny post in Hobart Town and Launceston. The postage is fourpence for every half ounce letter from one part of the colony to the other, and beyond it.

I have recently received a despatch from the Governor General of New South Wales, in which he suggests a combination among the Australian Colonies to establish monthly steam postage communication with Great Britain, each colony contributing in proportion to its share of the advantages to be derived from the measure.

Fulling concurring with Sir William Denison in the importance of establishing steam postal communication, I propose to suggest to the Legislative Council to vote 5,000*l.* as the contribution in aid from Tasmania, the principle upon

VAN DIEMEN'S LAND.

which my calculation is based being the proportion of population, and not the postal revenue derivable therefrom, the receipts for postage in 1854 from Great Britain being only 610*l.*

10. *Land Sales, Cultivation, Prices of Provisions, and Wages.*

Waste lands of the crown were sold in 1854 to the extent of 32,433 acres in country allotments, averaging 21*s.* 0$\frac{3}{4}$*d.* per acre, and 2,245 acres of town and suburban allotments, averaging 18*l.* 13*s.* 8$\frac{1}{2}$*d.* per acre.

All sources of Crown land revenue realized 112,225*l.* 12*s.* 7*d.* The cost of the survey department was 16,102*l.* 3*s.* 7*d.*

The number of acres held under depasturing licences was 2,284,214, giving a rental of 29,152*l.*

The extent of land reckoned to be under cultivation of all kinds in 1854 was 127,732 acres.

The number of sheep in the island was 1,831,308.

The wages of labour, from 5*s.* to 10*s.* per diem, without board and lodging, while the wages of skilled labour varied from 12*s.* to 16*s.* and even 20*s.* a day.

The price of flour was 38*l.* per ton, and is now 40*l.*; bread was 17*d.* the quartern loaf; meat from 6*d.* to 1*s.* a pound; wheat 16*s.* a bushel.

11. *Legislation.*

The laws enacted in 1854 were thirty in number, the titles of which are as follows:—

Hobart Town Buildings Regulation Act.
Judges Pension Act.
Deceased Persons Intestate Act Amendment.
Bonding Warehouse Charges Increase Act.
Patent Slip Act.
Retail Licences Act Continuation.
Assisted Emigrants Act.
Common Lodging Houses Act.
Royal Society Act.
Port Regulation Act.
Revenue Appropriation for 1854, Supplementary Act.
Launceston Slaughtering Act.
Master and Servants Act.
Common Law Procedure Act.
Bush Fires Prevention Act.
Jury Act.
Lieutenant Governor's Salary Act.
Ship Letter Act.
Sale of Liquors Regulation Act.
Council Extension Act.
Hobart Town Rivulet Act.
Parliament in Van Diemen's Land Act.
Launceston Building Regulation Act.
Revenue Appropriation, 1855, Act.

Private Acts.

Hobart Town and Sydney Steam Navigation Act.
Hobart Town and Kangaroo Point Steam Navigation Act.
Bank of Tasmania Act.
Hobart Town Gas Company Act.
Mersey Coal Company Act.
Eastern Coast Steam Navigation Act.

12. *New Country.*

In the year 1850 an expenditure from the Land Fund was commenced for the purpose of erecting a stone bridge called the Dunrobin over the Derwent River at Dunrobin near Hamilton, for the purpose of facilitating communication with the western and south-western country in the direction of Macquarie Harbour and Port Davey. The line was projected from Dunrobin Bridge to cross the

Repulse, Broad, Florentine, and Gordon Rivers. The country watered by these rivers is described in a report by Major Cotton in March 1851, of which I annex a copy, together with copy of a further report from that officer, dated March 1855, detailing the progress of the works to the present time. The bridge has, as yet, cost 8,137*l.*, and requires 2,104*l.* to complete it in twelve months from the present time. The road has cost 7,514*l.*, and requires 3,213*l.* to complete it in about the same space of time to Lake Pedder, distant from Port Davey twenty-five miles. From the sea at Port Davey the Huon River has been reached in three days.

It will be seen from the minute which is placed on this report, that I propose incurring, as time and means permit, the further expenditure which may be necessary to complete the opening up of the track of communication to Lake Pedder. I trust I may confidently reckon on the sanction of the Lords of the Treasury to this outlay.

An inspection of any general map of the island will show the immense extent of unoccupied land of the Crown which is included in the country west and south of Hamilton, as contrasted with the country occupied to the eastward of Hamilton and the Derwent River. I transmit a map of this western country by Major Cotton, illustrated with sketches of its scenery.

I forward also a tracing or sketch map, showing the country at present occupied under licence for pastoral purposes, and indicating the probable course of future settlement for the like purposes.

The country now used for pastoral purposes near the Guelph, Marlborough, and King William Plains was considered very unsuitable for occupation a few years ago, and now supports large flocks.

Under all these circumstances, combined with the considerable outlay which has already taken place, and which would be thrown away if the works already commenced, but incomplete, were relinquished, I have come to the conclusion that the works should be proceeded with out of the Land Fund to the extent above submitted for approval.

13. *General Observations.*

My visits to the rural districts have included Brown's River near Hobart Town, and Oyster Cove, the location of the few surviving aborigines, Richmond and Sorell on the Coal River, and Pittwater, Hamilton, Bothwell, and Lakes Sorell and Interlacken, the various townships intervening between Hobart Town and Launceston, George Town at the mouth of the River Tamar, and the country as far as Deloraine. I have also visited Tasman's Peninsula viâ Norfolk Bay.

The colonial churches and schools are not so well filled as they ought to be; and, with the exception of some instances of activity in the repair of roads by local road trustees, I was struck with the prevalence of a remarkable listlessness and want of organization to effect local improvements by local exertions, and a general habit of looking to the Colonial Government to do everything, great or little, which required to be done, and which in other countries would be done by parish or district authorities, or by the combination of private interests. It is possible that the smallness of church congregations may be accounted for in some degree by religion presenting itself to the minds of many of the labouring classes in association with the Episcopalian Church of England services which they attended compulsorily during their penal servitude. The rural state-aided schools have also, it strikes me, not hitherto received that attention from parents belonging to the well-paid labouring classes, and that countenance from the more influential residents in the neighbourhood, which their importance, and the liberality of the endowments from the Government, were calculated to excite. The value of labour withdraws the attendance of even very young children from school; a present gain of wages being preferred to the future advantages of mental and moral instruction.

The Crown lands have not fallen to the proprietorship of a class of small freeholders or yeomanry, nor, as yet, are the tenantry under private landlords numerous in the aggregate, or extensively spread over the island. The Imperial Land Sales Act of Parliament regulating the alienation of Crown lands at public auction came into local operation only in December 1853, the convict system having caused the Land Sales Act of Parliament to be in abeyance

VAN DIEMEN'S LAND.

until that date. The local land regulations of November 1851, now repealed as respects future disposal of land, but under which large blocks of land were extensively alienated on terms of low rents, credit for the purchase money, pre-emption right of purchase, and privileges of quiet possession for a long term of years of ten times the area rented, will, it is probable, postpone for many years to come the opening of lands to future emigrants, which lands, if now available for sale in smaller blocks, would facilitate the settlement of a numerous and valuable class of freeholders.

The convict establishments supported by the Imperial Government are well ordered and efficient. The periodical and voluminous estimates and reports which have been already transmitted on the convict department render it unnecessary to enter into details on the subject. I will but observe, that I find every disposition on the part of the Comptroller-General to co-operate in effecting the reductions in the expenditure so urgently required by the Imperial Government, and which were effected in 1854 to the extent of 70,000*l*.

It is, however, certain that the termination of the penal servitude of the convicts will not by any means prove a termination of the expense caused by them.

Not only in their own generation, by frequently recurring offences, but in that which succeeds them, their influence for evil will still survive.

Were there not in the island one transported offender undergoing sentence, there would still be for many years to come a claim on the justice of the mother country for a large payment for the support of establishments for orphans, lunatics, paupers, and criminals, rendered necessary, directly or indirectly, by reason of this colony having been for so many years the receptacle of the large convict population of Great Britain.

The road from Hobart Town to Launceston, public bridges, public and private buildings in town and country, are valuable results of convict labour then at the disposal or under the control of imperial officers; very many, however, of the penal edifices and stations, on the formation of which vast amounts of convict labour were bestowed, by variances in the Home Government on the policy of penal discipline and the employment of prisoners, and by the cessation of transportation, exist now but as untenanted buildings, not required for penal purposes, unsuitable for any other, and hastening to ruin.

The natural resources of the island are, I believe, capable of very extensive further development, but my imperfect acquaintance with the colony does not admit of my enlarging on this topic in the present report.

I have, &c.

H. E. F. YOUNG.

GOVERNMENT NOTICE.

No. 38.

Colonial Secretary's Office, 4th April 1851.

HIS Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor directs the publication, for general information, of the following report of the progress made during the year 1850 in the opening of the newly-discovered tracts to the westward.

By his Excellency's Command,

P. FRASER.

GENERAL REPORT on the Progress of Operations West of the Derwent.

25th March 1851.

At the close of the past year, it appeared desirable that I should make a general report of the progress of operations in the newly-opened country west of the course of the Derwent, the results already arrived at, and the arrangements made for the operations in this year; but, under the immediate expectation of obtaining further acquaintance with the nature and capabilities of the southern portions, by a visit to Port Davey and its neighbourhood, I have deferred making any report until I could include the result of my expedition there.

To illustrate this report, I have prepared the accompanying map, compiled partly from actual survey, and partly from general observations made by myself in visiting the principal mountain eminences, with the information obtained by the surveying and exploring parties under Messrs. Calder, Gell, and Cotton.

In the early part of the year, the track from Hobart Town by Victoria on the Huon was carried through the forests bordering on that river to the Lakes Pedder and Edgar; the latter a principal source of the Huon, and the former the source of a considerable

tributary of the Gordon. It passes through 50 miles of dense forest, the great barrier which had hitherto defied the efforts of private enterprise, and effectually closed from occupancy the open country beyond. The country traversed is not only for the most part densly wooded, but of exceedingly abrupt and rugged features, intersected by deep ravines and occasional marshy flats and shallows. At the foot of Mount Picton the track passes through two openings of about 1,000 acres each, sheltered and well adapted for sheep pasture, and then through a belt of 10 miles of forest, when it crosses the Cracroft, a considerable river running from the southward, and having its source in the gorges of the south-east extremity of the Arthur Range, and at once enters an extensive plain tract between that range and the source of the Huon. Following the course of the valley, it reaches the lakes, and has been carried no further, being beyond the limit to which I had means of supplying the surveying and clearing parties, the track in some parts not being passable for horses.

To the northward the road from Marlborough to the Guelph Plains has been completed for carts, bridges having been constructed over the Derwent and its two tributaries, the Guelph and the Navarre. A general survey and subdivision of the plains extending from Mount Olympus to the foot of Wylde's Craig has been effected, laying out into pasture allotments about 50,000 acres, a great proportion of which is already leased from the Crown, and occupied by flocks and cattle. A detached pasture allotment of 3,500 acres near the foot of the Quartz Mountain, known by the name of the Frenchman's Cap, has also been surveyed. This lies on a level about 2,000 feet below the upper plains, and is difficult of access. The survey at the head of the Vale of Gordon was suspended in May last, from the impossibility of keeping up the supply of provisions beyond that point; and my attention was directed to the project, which had been up to that period deferred, of opening a line of communication from the neighbourhood of Hamilton to the Gordon River through the Valley of the Florentine. Here the barrier, which extends in fact from D'Entrecasteaux's Channel in a north west direction, with scarcely a break, to the north-west angle of the island, is comparatively narrow; and a road of 20 miles in length will connect the most populous districts with the centre of the open country to the westward, and may be extended to Macquarie Harbour, to Port Davey, and to the plain country on the coast between those two ports. This line was explored by myself and by two other parties which I sent out for the purpose, and the best line was determined on. It passes over a considerable rise, and nearly the whole extent is a close forest of very heavy timber. The site of a bridge over the Derwent was determined by the Lieutenant-Governor, who personally visited the spot; and the clearing of the road has been carried on to the summit of the rise, about 1,500 feet above the level of the Derwent.

Until this road is opened the surveys are necessarily suspended; but in the meantime an opportunity has been offered me of examining the country from Port Davey to the Arthur Plains, beyond which the surveyors have not penetrated from the eastward. H.M. Schooner Bramble was fitted out for this expedition, and, during my examination of the interior, made a survey of the harbour, and fixed the latitude and longitude of South-west Cape, which had hitherto been doubtful. Sailing directions for entering Port Davey, founded on this survey, with a very clear description of that part of the coast, have been published for general information. The harbour consists of two distinct inlets, the one running to the northward, more particularly called Port Davey, into which the River Davey falls, and the other to the eastward, called Bathurst Harbour. The former inlet gives shelter to shipping, except in very severe gales; but the latter is perfectly secure, and of great extent, running in an easterly direction about 15 miles, where it opens out into a salt-water lake of 30 square miles of surface. I examined the whole of this beautiful estuary, and several valleys which fall towards it from the northward. Bramble Cove is the first shelter for shipping, and is a good harbour of refuge, but the banks are not convenient for wharfs. The next bay or cove is that into which Spring River falls. The channel up to it is sufficiently deep and wide, and the cove itself admirably calculated for a port. A considerable portion of the shore is steep below water, and forms almost a natural wharf, and there is sufficient space of undulating ground for a small town. The hills afford constantly flowing rills even in this exceedingly dry season, and Spring River, winding through a flat and fertile valley, is navigable for barges about ten miles up. This is the spot which is best adapted for forming the site of a town, not only from its local advantages, but as most easy of access from the interior.

The road from the lakes will cross no stream of any importance, and no difficult country, and will approach the town by the valley I have described. Two other considerable valleys fall into the salt-water lake forming the east extremity of the inlet, in which there is pine and other timber, and some extent of open plain country.

The most eastern stream rises in Mount Picton, the ridges of which divide the waters of the Huon from those flowing in this direction; and here would be found the most direct line of communication to Hobart Town; but the formation of a road would be a work of vast labour, and it would pass over a considerable elevation.

The distance from Bathurst Town, if so called, to Hobart Town, by way of Lake Pedder, the Florentine Valley, and Hamilton, will be about 120 miles; that by the Arthur Plains and the valley of the Huon about 95 miles; and a mountain path, by way of Mount

VAN DIEMEN'S LAND.

Picton, passing over a shoulder of that mountain about 2,000 feet in height into the Huon Valley, would bring Hobart Town within 75 miles of the salt-water lake.

In my expedition into the interior from Port Davey I ascended Mount Pollard, about 10 miles north of the harbour, where I obtained an extensive view of the country along the coast to the northward, and recognised the country already visited from the eastward, completing my acquaintance with the general features of the whole country, with the exception of that immediately about Macquarie Harbour, which was concealed from my view by the Frenchman's Cap when I was in the north, and which is from Mount Pollard lost behind a chain of no great elevation extending from the Frankland range to the west coast.

The general character of the country on this side of the great forest barrier differs much from the eastern parts of the island. Though equally mountainous, it contains a larger proportion of land fit for occupation, as the high mountains are for the most part abrupt and lofty ridges, comparatively small in base, and leaving more of open, flat, or undulating country between them; and, with the exception of those high ranges, the whole country is fit for occupation. The structure is for the most part quartz, with the rocks which usually belong to that formation. In the highest ranges the granite pierces through the quartz at different levels, varying nearly in accordance with their distance from the west coast. Near the coast quartz rises to an elevation of 3,000 feet before it is broken through by the granite; and the surface evidently dips to the eastward, giving place to the granite, upheaved at a lower and lower level until it disappears entirely, the line of its disappearance being about north-west and south-east through Wylde's Craig.

In a country where quartz rock apparently so greatly predominates over everything of a decomposing or a disintegrating nature, great fertility is not expected, and the white serrated ridges and naked flanks of the hills give the country a character of barrenness which it is not found to merit. Rich valleys, lined with timber of the most magnificent appearance and most useful description, occur between the spurs of the Arthur and Picton ranges, running quite down to the salt-water level, and the pine forests about Macquarie Harbour are well known. These forests and the banks of the Davey are even now worked by a few individuals, cut off from all communication with their fellow-men except by the occasional visit of a small vessel to bear away the fruits of their labour, and they will become a source of employment and revenue as the country becomes peopled. The lower mountain tracts, and a vast extent of undulating country, are covered, or nearly so, with a thick coating of wiry and coarse vegetation, which, when burnt off, gives place to nutritious grasses; and, from the experience we have had in obtaining this result, I have no doubt a very great proportion of the whole area will be found well adapted for the depasturing of flocks and cattle. Down the Vale of Gordon every step advanced by flocks carries forward this improvement. On the Arthur Plains, which have not yet been reached by flocks for want of means of access, but which were burnt last year, the same result has taken place; and those plains will shortly be fit for pasture, with the plains and hollows about the lakes, and those smaller openings which lie curtained by forest about the foot of Mount Picton.

Sandstone and limestone exist in the lower part of the Gordon, and between the Gordon and the Florentine, and slate of a fine even texture abounds in the bed of the Huon.

The whole country is well watered.

The operations in progress and in contemplation, for throwing open this new tract of country, are as follows:

1st. The road mentioned above, crossing the Derwent near Hamilton, and passing through the valley of the Florentine River, is now in progress. When it reaches the ridge dividing the Florentine from the Gordon, it is proposed to carry it on in a southerly direction to the lakes, and, keeping the line which divides the drainage there, it will pass between Lake Maria and Lake Edgar, and, rounding the eastern extremity of the Frankland range, will join the Huon track, and fall into the valleys running to the southward through the opening between the Frankland and Arthur ranges, which are there barely connected by a very low neck.

2d. As soon as this communication is sufficiently advanced to admit of supplies for the surveying parties being deposited on the banks of the Gordon, the surveys will proceed, and, as has been done to the northward, the remainder of the Vale of Gordon will be divided off into pasture lots of from 2,000 to 5,000 acres, and the flocks admitted.

The plains about the lakes and the Arthur Plains, in succession, and the country to the westward and southward, will be proceeded with in the same manner.

3rd. In the course of these surveys the trigonometrical stations will be established, carrying on the triangulation quite down to the coast, and the surveys will be effected in connexion with them.

4th. From the effort made by flock owners to press on through the greatest difficulties to the plains newly opened, and to those in fact still scarcely accessible, I have no doubt that the whole country will be occupied as quickly as tracks can be opened and the country subdivided; and, with so admirable an outlet for wool as Bathurst Town, Port Davey, there will be every inducement for the spread of the crowded flocks of the colony

in that direction. Occupation under depasturing licences therefore will proceed regularly as the operations advance.

5th. My attention during next summer, while these operations are in progress, I propose to direct to the examination of the country near the coast north of the Macquarie Harbour, where from a distance I have seen much open country apparently similar in character to that to the southward, and to which access will be obtained through some extent of forest from King William's Plains.

In closing this report, I cannot help acknowledging the active services of the exploring parties under Mr. Gell and Mr. Cotton, who have been exposed to great privations and fatigue, and obtained for me an amount of information which nothing but the spirit of enterprise, with bodily and mental energy, could have obtained.

H. COTTON, Deputy-Surveyor-General.

GOVERNMENT NOTICE.

No. 61.

Colonial Secretary's Office, 5th May 1855.

THE Governor directs the publication for general information of the following reports of the Deputy-Surveyor-General and other documents relative to the road from Dunrobin to Lake Pedder.

By his Excellency's Command,

W. CHAMP.

Memo. Surveyor-General's Office, 2d February, 1855.

The Governor being desirous of obtaining information respecting the available Crown lands of the colony, I beg leave to draw his Excellency's attention to the report of the Deputy-Surveyor-General, contained in the Gazette of the 26th of March 1850 (Government Notice No. 31.), by which it appears that an area of about 280,000 acres exists in the locality referred to. At the same time I feel bound to state that no land has been taken up in that locality to the present moment.

R. POWER, Surveyor-General.

The Honourable
The Colonial Secretary.

SIR, Gordon River Road, 3d March 1855.

I have the honour to report, for your information, that I yesterday returned from Lake Pedder and the adjacent country, after an absence of twelve days,

A slight accident prevented the Deputy-Surveyor-General from proceeding beyond the Gordon Plains; and, having full confidence in the zeal and ability of my overseers (during my absence), I volunteered to carry out the exploratory survey he had projected.

Provisioned only for seven days, we however encountered so much of forest and scrub (in our outward route) as to make it twelve ere we got back. We saw an immense extent of available pastoral country; and I feel warranted in saying that the result of our tour, in addition to observations taken by the Deputy-Surveyor-General on the line of road and the vicinity of the Gordon Plains, will enable that gentleman to make such a report to the Government as will manifest the expediency of prosecuting with vigour the completion of the road now in progress, and its further extension.

I crave indulgence for the non-transmission of my weekly returns by this post, which are unavoidably postponed, the pay abstracts and ration returns having engrossed the little time left me since my return.

I have, &c.
WILLIAM DAWSON.

The Director of Public Works.

6th March 1855.

Forwarded to the Colonial Secretary for the Governor's information.

WILLIAM P. KAY.

The Honourable
The Colonial Secretary.

This is very satisfactory, and creditable to Mr. Dawson. I shall expect with interest the further report to be made by Major Cotton.

9th March 1855. H. E. F. Y.

VAN DIEMEN'S LAND

Report on the Road from Dunrobin to Lake Pedder.

10th March 1855.

Accompanying is a sketch of the country through which the road passes to the Gordon River, and that through which it is proposed to extend it as far as Lake Pedder.

I carefully examined by compass the course of the road throughout, and find it much more direct than I ever anticipated, considering the difficulties of the tract through which it passes.

From Dunrobin Bridge to the Repulse River, a distance of eight miles, the road follows nearly the course of the Derwent; and, with the exception of the bridges over the Broad River and the Repulse, a good cart-road has been made with very little labour. At the Repulse River land has been reserved for a future township.

From hence to Judy's Marsh, five or six miles, the road ascends about 1,100 feet. This part of the road has cost much labour, first in opening a way through the forest, and then in cutting along the face of the slopes. So far a good cart-road is formed.

From Judy's Marsh to the top of the descent into the Florentine Valley, about seven miles, the road is good for horses, and could, without much labour, be made fit for wheel conveyances. It rises by a gradual but imperceptible ascent 200 or 300 feet. Passing through a dense myrtle forest for the most part, this has been a work of great labour. It crosses one good marsh, which, if drained, would afford a resting-place for flocks passing to the Plains. From hence to the township reserve of Florence, on the Florentine River, five miles, is a descent of 800 or 900 feet, still through a close and intricate forest, the clearing of which, and the side cutting for the roadway, with occasional culverts, has been the most laborious work in the whole undertaking. It is well done, and practicable for horses. Here improvements are still in progres.

At Florence a bridge has been laid over the river, but not above the level of the highest floods; it, however, has stood well through a great trial during the last winter, and will answer present purposes, as flocks will not be driven through in the wet months.

From Florence to Huntly, a township reservation on the borders of the Gordon Plains, is twelve miles. This part of the road is now in progress, and could in a short period, if the force was concentrated, be made fit for horses and flocks. It runs through a forest of the same impervious character, and has been a work of considerable labour; but, as far as the clearing has yet been extended, it runs along the valley with a very gentle acclivity, and has required very little levelling. The part remaining to be cleared of timber (not more than two miles) is now in hand. It will require side-cutting along the face of a steep slope for one mile. At Huntly the road debouches on the plains near the great bend of the Gordon River.

From the Repulse to the Florentine the course of the road is almost uniformly south-west, and along the Florentine Valley something westerly of south; and, on the whole, the road from Dunrobin to the bend of the Gordon may be considered a very direct line of communication, and the ascents and descents are overcome in a very satisfactory manner.

My first inspection of this part of the country gave me the assurance that this would be found the best line of communication between the occupied country and the extensive open but unoccupied tracts to the west and south-west; but I anticipated much greater obstacles to the formation of a direct road, and have in this particular been highly gratified by my present tour of inspection.

Having met with an accident on leaving the plains, I was under the necessity of sending forward a party to the lakes under the Superintendent, Mr. Dawson; but made an examination of the neighbourhood, and ascended several commanding eminences, by which, with Mr. Dawson's report on the country he traversed, I obtained all the information necessary to determine the direction the road must take to Lake Pedder, from whence the country is open to the Huon and Arthur Plains and to the west coast.

From Huntly to the lake, in the direction which the road must take, is about 27 miles; it must pass over one important and two smaller ridges, all narrow, but covered with a thick scrub and some heavy timber, and through open undulating country and flats. Not more than three miles in all on the ridges will be required to be cleared of timber.

I would take the liberty to suggest that the Director of Public Works obtain from Mr. Dawson an estimate of the amount of labour required to complete the following works:—

1st. To open the track through to the Gordon, making it practicable by flocks and cattle.

2d. To throw a foot-bridge across the Gordon, for communication with the plains on the opposite bank.

3d. To render the track passable for carts as far as "the Mount," or commencement of the descent into the Florentine Valley.

4th. To cut a drain through a marsh near "the Mount," to fit it for a resting and feeding place for flocks.

5th. To extend the communication to Lake Pedder passable for flocks and cattle by cutting through the narrow belts of forests, and marking the line with stakes through the intervening plains.

6th. To make the descent to the Florentine practicable for carts.

These estimates, with that for the completion of the bridge over the Derwent, will put his Excellency in possession of the requisite information which I have not data to embody in this report.

The forests in the Florentine Valley, which, till this track was opened through, resisted all efforts to free them from the mass of wet vegetation, inaccessible to the sun's rays, which everywhere prevailed, have this year been extensively opened by fire, and the fires are still spreading. The change effected will be immense, and give this rich valley a large step forward in its sure progress to occupation.

The several proposed sites for townships,—at the bridge over the Repulse River, at that over the Florentine, and at the opening upon the Gordon Plains,—are all well watered, and good sites.

The Florentine Valley, when cleared of its forests, will be found, in soil and in climate, calculated to become a rich agricultural tract. It is sheltered by Mount Field on the east, Mount Ann to the south, and the range running south from Wyld's Crag on the west. The river is always an abundant stream. The prevailing rock is limestone.

Passing over the last ridge into the Gordon Plains, there is a sudden and complete change in the character of the country. Open and undulating, intersected merely with belts of wood, and prepared to receive flocks at once for summer feeding, it will, I feel assured, be at no distant period a favourite sheep country.

Comparing these plains,—first those called King William's Plains to the northward, these, being on a lower level, about 1,000 feet, and from the nature of the grass and herbage covering them, have, in my judgment, decidedly the advantage,—and comparing them, secondly, with the rocky tracts in other parts of the island now covered with sheep, —I am strongly impressed with the belief that, though undoubtedly they require much of that operation which is effected by the flocks themselves for their improvement, they will be at least as well calculated for the depasturing of sheep and cattle as those tracts with which I am now comparing them. I speak here of the country about the great bend of the Gordon, and the plains through which the track is proposed to be carried as far as the Lakes, and may include the plains extending up the right bank of the Gordon to its source, near which is a considerable ascent to the Guelph and King William's Plains, where I believe 15,000 sheep are now fed. I particularly draw attention to this circumstance, from my conviction that if those formerly most unpromising plains will bear sheep at all, much more may these be expected to become a valuable range for flocks.

Not being myself a sheep farmer, I reluctantly offer an opinion on the subject, but wish to state the grounds of my conviction, and that this is confirmed by every visitor of the plains whom I have met with.

It appears to me now desirable that the whole strength of the party should be applied to the completion of a passable sheep and horse track quite to the plains, according to the first proposed estimate, and laying a foot bridge over the Gordon near the great bend, according to the second; and in order to give flocks a resting and feeding place between the Repulse Bridge and the Florentine, it would be very desirable to cut the drain referred to in the fourth proposed estimate. These works completed, the expediency of carrying out those referred to in the third, fifth, and sixth proposed estimates, and any further improvements, may depend on their results.

The bridge over the Derwent has been a very expensive work. The piers and abutments are now nearly completed; they are exceedingly well built, and of a very compact and fine freestone. The wooden arches under preparation appear to be in a state of great forwardness. The approach to the bridge from the Hamilton side will be a work of some considerable labour, scarcely yet commenced; but the Director of Public Works will give all the information his Excellency requires on this head.

H. COTTON.

SUBMITTED. Much of the land herein referred to is the same as that reported upon by the Deputy-Surveyor-General in March 1850, and none of it has yet been taken up. I therefore beg to draw attention to the report in question.

R. POWER.

13th March 1855.

RETURN my best thanks to Major Cotton for this report. Say I consider it to be very interesting and satisfactory as far as it goes. It is only by private enterprise that the value of this extensive western and south-western tract of country can be determined, and the public are entitled to such information as the Government possesses respecting it. Let it, therefore, be published in the Gazette, with Mr. Dawson's letter of the 3d March 1855, Surveyor-General's minutes of the 2d of February and the 13th March, and also with this minute. Valuable country has remained in other colonies unavailed of much longer than the period that has elapsed since 1850, the date of Major Cotton's first report. To facilitate access to new country is an obvious and necessary preliminary to its being turned to account. I am glad that the Dunrobin Bridge is reported to me by the Director of Public Works to be so far advanced as to be capable of completion within another twelve months, for a further sum of £2,104 8s.; and it is

VAN DIEMEN'S LAND.

also satisfactory to learn that such progress has been made in opening up a track towards Lake Pedder that this work can be completed to that point for £3,215 11s. I purpose continuing these works as early as the season, the labour available, and the state of the Land Fund may permit, because my experience in opening new country elsewhere has satisfied me of the reasonable probability that such outlay will prove highly reproductive.

30th March 1855. H. E. F. YOUNG.

GORDON RIVER ROAD.

Memorandum.

WITH reference to my report of the 10th ultimo, and the estimates furnished by the Director of Public Works, I beg now to draw his Excellency's attention more particularly to the result to be expected from the completion of the work to the extent provided for in the estimates.

It appears that the superintendent, with two overseers, a constable, and 24 labourers, will in twelve months from the 1st instant make the road practicable for carts as far as the township of Florence on the banks of the Florentine River, and from thence practicable for horses and flocks to the township of Huntly in the Valley of the Gordon, and onwards through several extensive open tracts to Lake Pedder. This, with the completion of the bridge over the Derwent at Dunrobin, will complete the projected line of communication for giving access to the plains near the great bend of the Gordon where the township of Huntley is situated, consisting of two lots containing 5,850 acres already surveyed, and about 7,000 acres not yet measured, 38,500 acres marked off into eight pasture lots in the Gordon Valley above the bend, and similar plains, estimated to be 40,000 acres, terminating at Lake Pedder.

When these plains are occupied there will be no obstacle to the occupation of the pasture lots in the neighbourhood of Lake Edgar (47,000 acres already divided into five lots) and down the course of the Huon (40,000 acres divided into five lots) to the junction of the Cracroft, an important tributary rising in the Arthur Mountains, but which latter plains are of a less promising character than those near the lakes and on the line of the proposed track.

From these plains to the west coast communication can be easily extended. It is now passable for foot passengers, and has been freely traversed by surveyors and messengers of this department. I cannot but observe here that, in addition to the immediate advantage of opening up plains of great extent hitherto unapproachable, the western coast and harbours, till now absolutely cut off by the great mountain and forest barrier from the inhabited country, become accessible, and (as described in my former reports) an important portion of the island, hitherto forming a perfectly separate territory out of reach except by a very precarious and uncertain sea voyage, becomes a connected portion of the colony, and I have no doubt will be found by no means the least important part of the island.

The fine harbour of Port Davey will be the chief outlet for its produce. Its valuable timber, its mineral indications, and its promise as a sheep country, as well as the extensive forest tracts bordering on it, which will gradually develop rich agricultural lands, give to this territorial communication a value which I believe has never yet been appreciated.

A tracing accompanies this report, embracing, besides the line of country traversed by the proposed road, the plains near Lake St. Clair, opened in 1850, and now fully occupied by flocks; those in the Gordon Valley to be approached by the proposed bridge over that river near Huntly; and the plains to the southward of Lake Edgar, above alluded to. And I must at the same time refer to my general map of this part of the country, furnished with my former report, and now with the Government. I must further notice that, although the completion of the contemplated work is estimated to occupy twelve months from the 1st instant, the road may be made available for flocks to pass to the plains bordering on the Gordon early in the spring; and therefore it will be necessary previous to that period to make arrangements for granting grazing licences to occupy the land in that neighbourhood, and for marking off allotments for sale in the townships of Huntly, Florence, and Bethune.

H. C. COTTON, 16th April 1855.

The Surveyor General.

SIR, Office of Public Works, 16th April, 1855.

I HAVE the honour to submit herewith a statement of the cost, up to the end of last month, of the Dunrobin Bridge, together with an estimate of the amount that will be required to complete the same; from which it will be seen that, with the strength of the party kept up to the numbers specified, the work is expected to be completed in nine months from the 1st instant.

I have, &c.

W. P. KAY.

The Honourable
The Colonial Secretary.

STATEMENT of Amount expended on the Dunrobin Bridge up to the 31st March 1855.

	£	s.	d.
In 1850	7	4	0
1851	1,165	3	0
1852	2,302	3	11
1853	1,605	10	2
1854	1,926	8	3
1855, up to 31st March 1855	1,131	9	0
	£8,137	18	4
Amount required to complete the bridge, as per annexed estimate	£2,104	8	0
Total cost of bridge	£10,242	6	4

ESTIMATE of the probable Cost in completing the Works in the Erection of the Bridge at Dunrobin.

	£	s.	d.
Superintendent, 9 months, at 6s. 6d. per diem	87	15	0
Foreman of carpenters, 8 months, at 7s. 6d. per diem	71	5	0
Eight carpenters, 8 months, at 6s. per diem	426	8	0
Two ditto, 6 months, at 5s. per diem	72	0	0
Four masons, 4 months, at 6s. per diem	115	4	0
Two stonecutters, 3 months, at 4s. per diem	28	16	0
Two ditto, 3 months, at 3s. per diem	23	8	0
Two sawyers, 2 months, at 5s. per diem	24	0	0
Two ditto, 1 month, at 4s. per diem	9	12	0
Two blacksmiths, 6 months, at 4s. per diem	57	12	0
Four labourers, 6 months, at 3s. per diem	53	12	0
Team of bullocks, 2 months, at 12s. per diem	28	16	0
	£998	8	0
Estimated cost of rations for the above-named number of men, and the several periods they are employed	600	0	0
Commissariat charges, and for visiting magistrate, £35, for 9 months	315	0	0
Add 10 per cent. for contingencies, carriage of stores, &c.	191	0	0
	£2,104	8	0

WM. P. KAY.

SIR, Office of Public Works, 16th April 1855.

IN compliance with the Governor's instruction on Major Cotton's report respecting the Gordon River Road, I have procured from Mr. Dawson the six estimates which were therein ordered to be made out, and which I beg herewith to enclose.

From the best calculations that I can make from his data, I find that to complete the works therein described, the party being kept up to an effective strength of twenty-four men, with a superintendent, two overseers, and a constable, will take about twelve months, commencing from the 1st instant; and of this the enclosed estimate will show the probable cost, supposing that the cost of wages and provisions remains the same as at present.

The number of men to be employed will vary according to the state of the weather, and the facilities which may or may not exist for proceeding with the work; but the average number will not exceed 24 men.

I also beg to submit a statement of the amount expended from the commencement of the undertaking to the 31st ult., which, with the estimate of the cost of its completion, will show the total probable cost of the work.

I have, &c.
WM. P. KAY.

The Honourable
The Colonial Secretary.

VAN DIEMEN'S LAND.

STATEMENT of Amount expended on the Gordon River Road up to the 31st March 1855.

	£	s.	d.
In 1850	10	9	7
1851	790	11	5
1852	917	7	1
1853	1,706	19	3
1854	3,076	16	9
1855 up to March 31st	1,012	4	0
	7,514	7	1
Amount required to complete the work, as per annexed estimate	3,215	11	0
	£10,729	18	1

ESTIMATE of the probable Cost of completing the clearing of the Road to Gordon River and Lake Pedder.

	£	s.	d.
One Superintendent, at 170*l.* for twelve months	170	0	0
Temporary increase on ditto, say	100	0	0
Constable, say	67	0	0
Two Overseers, at 7*s.* 6*d.* per diem each for twelve months	273	15	0
Twenty-four men, at 2*s.* 4*d.* per diem each, for 313 days	924	16	0
Rations for the above officers and men	1,370	0	0
Forage for two pack-horses	116	0	0
Forage allowance for Superintendent	60	0	0
One penny per diem for each man for tools	34	0	0
Stores, contingencies, &c.	100	0	0
	£3,215	1	10

WM. P. KAY.

Statistical Tables of Tasmania for the Year 1854.

INDEX.

	No.		No.
Population	1	Land Revenue	30
Convict Population	2	Expenditure from Land Fund	31
Births	3		
Deaths	4	Lands granted and sold	32
Marriages	5	Land in cultivation	33
Immigration	6	Live Stock	34
Emigration	7		
		Litigation, Civil Cases	35
		Conviction, Supreme Court	36
Imports	8	„ Quarter Sessions	37
Exports	9	Criminals executed	38
Fisheries	10	Courts of Requests cases	39
Shipping	11		
Vessels built	12	Tickets of Leave and Pardons	40
Steamers	13		
Mortgages on Land	14	Schools	41
Coin	15	Orphan Schools	42
Banking Returns	16		
Bonded Goods	17	Diseases	43
Export of Wool and Oil	18	Lunatics	44
„ Colonial Produce	19		
Imports, chief articles	20	Aborigines	45
Insolvencies	21		
Lighthouses	22	Meteorology	46
Post Offices	23		
Manufactories	24	Commissariat Expenditure	47
Municipalities	25		
Wages	26	Conservancy of the Peace	48
Prices of Provisions	27		
		Number of Houses	49
Revenue	28		
Expenditure	29	Religion of the Inhabitants	50

No. 1.

Return showing the Population of the Colony on the 31st December 1854, not including the Troops and their Families.

	Males.	Females.	Children.	Total.
On the 31st December 1853 there were in the Colony,—				
Free	13,353	12,127	23,729	
Convict	12,575	4,170	—	
Total	25,928	16,297	23,729	65,954
Add Immigration	5,597	2,883	1,045	
Births	—	—	2,603	
	31,525	19,180	27,377	78,082
Deduct Emigration	8,238	2,336	706	
Deaths	626	326	976	
Population on 31st December 1854	22,661*	16,518*	25,695	64,874

* Of these 8,408 are male convicts, 3,310 are female convicts.

Remarks on No. 1.—As compared with 1853 this Table shows a diminution in the number of adult males of 3,267, and an increase in adult females of 221, and of children 1,966, leaving a net diminution of 1,080 in the population.

VAN DIEMEN'S LAND.

No. 2.

RETURN showing the NUMBER and DISTRIBUTION of the CONVICTS in the Colony on the 31st December 1854.

	Maintained by the Government.			Not maintained by the Government.			TOTAL.	
	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.
Holding tickets-of-leave -	211	10	312	4,018	2,108	6,126	4,229	2,209
In private service - -	- -	- -	- -	2,228	417	2,645	2,228	417
Under probation - -	490	24	514	- -	- -	- -	490	24
Under sentence - -	1,163	509	1,672	- -	- -	- -	1,163	509
At depots awaiting hire -	4	7	11	- -	- -	- -	4	7
Invalids and in hospital -	294	144	438	- -	- -	- -	294	144
	2,162	785	2,947	6,246	2,525	8,771	8,408	3,310

NOTE.—Of the ticket-of-leave holders maintained by the Government 33 men and 14 women are in hospitals or infirmaries.

Remarks on No. 2.—This return, as compared with 1853, shows a reduction of 4,167 males, and 860 females in the convict population.

It also shows a reduction of 760 males and 253 females in the number maintained by Government.

No. 3.

RETURN showing the NUMBER of BIRTHS registered at the several Registry Offices in 1854.

Male Children.	Female Children.	Total.
1,339	1,264	2,603

Remarks on No. 3.—As compared with 1853, this shows an increase of 145 male and 225 female children registered.

No. 4.

RETURN showing the NUMBER of DEATHS registered in the several Registry Offices during 1854.

(The deaths of convicts are not registered in these offices.)

Ages.	Males.	Females.	Total.
Under 10 years of age - - -	523	453	976
10 and under 20 - - -	61	55	116
20 „ 30 - - -	78	57	135
30 „ 40 - - -	114	59	173
40 „ 50 - - -	118	55	173
50 „ 60 - - -	97	49	146
60 „ 70 - - -	68	28	96
70 „ 80 - - -	46	12	58
80 „ 90 - - -	21	3	24
90 „ 100 - - -	3	1	4
100 and upwards - - -	1	0	1
Ages not known - - -	19	7	26
Total - -	1,149	779	1,928

Remarks on No. 4.—As compared with 1853, this shows a decrease in the number of deaths of 89, and this decrease appears to have taken place in the class of females between 30 and 40 years of age, and of female children under 10 years of age.

No. 5.

RETURN showing the Number of Marriages registered in the several Registry Offices during the Year 1854.

By Ministers of the Church of England	731
" " Scotland	122
" " Rome	317
By Wesleyan Ministers	47
Independent	113
Baptist	1
By Jews	3
Quakers	0
Deputy Registers	9
Total	1,343

Of these 331 were widowers or widows. 288 were of persons under 21 years of age.
In 1,073 cases the Registers were signed by marks.

Remarks on No. 5.—As compared with 1853, this shows a decrease of 136 in the number of marriages. Almost all being under the head of Churches of England and Rome, the decrease appears to be in the former to the extent of upwards of 120.

No. 6.

RETURN relative to IMMIGRATION in 1854.

Immigrants introduced at the Public Expense.					Immigrants at their own Expense.				Total Number of Immigrants in 1854.	Expenses of Office Lodging, Salaries, Gratuities, &c.	Passage Money of Immigrants from England and Victoria, and Repayment of Deposits under Regulations of 1853.	Total Expense of Immigration in 1854.
Adults.		Children.										
Men.	Women.	Boys.	Girls.	Total.	Men.	Wmn	Children.	Total.		£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1,750	1,576	419	427	4,172	3,847	1,307	199	5,353	9,525	4,505 13 5	*18,627 14 10	23,133 8 3

* Of this sum 6,352*l.* 7*s.* 3*d.* was paid for immigrants from Victoria, and 8,420*l.* 2*s.* 7*d.* for immigrants from Great Britain.

Remarks on No. 6.—As compared with 1853, this shows an increase in Government immigrants to the extent of 1,047 men, 946 women, and 348 children; and a decrease on private immigrants of 6,737 men, 765 women, and 291 children.

No. 6 *a*.

RETURN showing the PORTS from which the IMMIGRANTS arrived in 1854.

Port.	Men.	Women.	Children.	Total.
From Great Britain	751	1,489	705	2,945
Hamburg	3	—	—	3
New South Wales	234	131	53	418
Victoria	4,561	1,240	278	6,079
South Australia	14	9	3	27
New Zealand	18	5	3	26
United States of America	1	2	1	4
Foreign States	15	6	2	23
Total	5,597	2,782	1,045	9,525

Remarks on 6*a*.—As compared with 1853, this shows a decrease in the arrivals from Victoria of 5,047 souls, and from Great Britain of 451 souls.

VAN DIEMEN'S LAND.

No. 7.

RETURN of the number of PERSONS who have left the Colony during the Year 1854.

To wh ntry.	Persons who have always been free.				Persons who have been Convicts.			Total.
	Men.	Women.	Children.	Total.	Men.	Women.	Total.	
Victoria - - -	5,923	1,710	481	8,114	1,358	175	1,533	9,647
New South Wales - -	623	250	133	1,006	48	7	55	1,061
Great Britain - -	125	118	65	308	6	4	10	318
Foreign Ports - -	14	3	1	18	1	0	1	19
British Ports - -	118	66	26	210	22	3	25	235
	6,803	2,147	706	9,656	1,435	189	1,624	11,280

Remarks on No. 7.—As compared with 1853, this shows a decrease in the emigration of 1,404 souls.

To Victoria there have been 1,906 fewer emigrants, almost all in the class of persons who have been convicts.

No. 8.

RETURN of the VALUE of IMPORTS into the Colony during the Year 1854.

From what Country.	Value.
	£
From Great Britain - - - -	1,776,694
From British Colonies - -	696,296
From Foreign States - - -	95,295
From the United States of America - -	36,078
From British North America - - -	317
Total - £	2,604,680

Remarks on No. 8.—As compared with 1853 this shows an increase of 331,283*l.*

No. 9.

RETURN of the VALUE of EXPORTS from the Colony during the Year 1854.

To what Country.	Declared Value.
	£
To Great Britain - - - -	424,575
To British Colonies - - - -	1,007,287
To United States of America - - -	1,132
To Foreign States - - - -	27
Total - £	1,433,021

Remarks on No. 9.—As compared with 1853, this shows an decrease of 324,575*l.*

No. 10.

RETURN of the SHIPS and VESSELS engaged in the Fisheries during 1854.

Description of Vessels.						Description and Value of Cargo disposed of by Foreign Ships.			
Colonial.		British.		Foreign.					
Number	Tonnage.	Number.	Tonnage.	Number.	Tonnage.	Sperm Oil.	Black Oil.	Whalebone.	Value.
							tuns.	*tons.*	
5	1,247	1	375	2	737	—	23	10	£1,050

Remarks on No. 10.—As compared with 1853, this shows a decrease of one vessel engaged in the fisheries.

No. 11.

RETURN of the NUMBER of VESSELS that entered Inwards and cleared Outwards during the Year 1854.

Countries.	Entered Inwards.		Cleared Outwards.	
	Number.	Tonnage.	Number.	Tonnage.
Great Britain - - - -	91	39,678	19	8,303
British Colonies - - -	941	152,185	930	164,064
South Sea Islands - - -	—	—	5	734
Fisheries - - - -	9	2,690	14	3,680
United States of America - -	2	1,307	2	587
Foreign States - - - -	14	2,752	58	23,030
	1,057	198,612	1,028	200,398

Remarks on No 11.—As compared with 1853, this shows an increase of 16 vessels from Great Britain inwards, and of 12 vessels from British Colonies and 9 from the fisheries, but a decrease of 4 from the United States. Total increase 33 vessels inwards. It also shows a decrease of 1 vessel to Great Britain, 12 vessels to British Colonies, 1 to United States, but an increase of 5 to South Sea Islands, 14 to fisheries, 24 to Foreign Ports. Total increase outwards, 29 vessels.

No. 12.

RETURN of the NUMBER of VESSELS built and registered during the Year 1854.

Vessels built.		Vessels registered.	
Number.	Tonnage.	Number.	Tonnage.
10	401	90	10,344

Remarks on No. 12.—As compared with 1853, this shows a decrease of 8 vessels built, and of 17 vessels registered.

VAN DIEMEN'S LAND,

No. 13.

RETURN showing the NUMBER of STEAM VESSELS registered at the Ports of HOBART TOWN and LAUNCESTON in the Year 1854.

Number of Steam Vessels.		Tonnage.	Steam Power.	Remarks.
Built of Wood.	Built of Iron.			
2	9	1,766	744	Some of them employed between Tasmania and Victoria, and others as passenger or ferry boats on the coasts and rivers of Tasmania.

Remarks on No. 13.—As compared with 1853, this shows an increase of 6 steamers, all of Iron.

No. 14.

RETURN of the AMOUNT and NUMBER of MORTGAGES on LAND registered during 1854.

Number of Mortgages registered.	Amount.
	£
293	316,463

Remarks on No. 14.—As compared with 1853, this shows an increase of 93,471*l.* raised on seventy more mortgages.

No. 15.

RETURN of the AMOUNT of COIN in the Colony on the 31st December 1854.

	£	s.	d.
In the Colonial Treasury - - - -	Nil.		
In the Commissariat Chest - - -	40,000	0	0
In the Banks - - - - -	995,368	17	3
Total - -	1,035,368	17	3
Decrease on previous year - -	339,983	2	11

Remarks on No. 15.—As compared with 1853, there are 5,000*l.* more in the commissariat chest, but 334,983*l.* 2*s.* 11*d.* less in the banks.

No. 16.

RETURN of the ASSETS and LIABILITIES of the several Banks at the End of the Year 1854.

		Bank of Van Diemen's Land.	Commercial Bank.	Bank of Australasia.	Union Bank.	Bank of Tasmania.	TOTAL.
		£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Assets	Coin and Bullion	182,046 2 7	356,591 16 9	192,971 18 0	235,352 15 9	28,406 4 2	995,368 17 3
	Bills of Exchange, Cash, Credits, &c - -	244,360 0 9	352,113 15 7	358,486 8 4	373,596 19 0	85,919 12 0	1,414,476 15 8
	Total Assets -	- - -	- - -	- - -	- - -	- - -	2,409,845 12 11
Liabilities.	Notes in Circulation - -	26,812 0 0	58,928 0 0	52,814 9 2	53,562 0 0	10,392 0 0	202,508 9 2
	Deposits -	279,406 9 11	522,053 16 8	411,376 16 8	426,927 9 4	58,404 19 3	1,698,269 10 10
	Total Liabilities -	- - -	- - -	- - -	- - -	- - -	1,900,777 19 0

Remarks on No. 16.—As compared with 1853, the assets of the several banks are more by 13,726*l.*, and their liabilities less by 221,867*l.*

The Bank of Tasmania was established in 1854.

No. 17.

RETURN of the QUANTITY of GOODS in Her Majesty's Bonding Warehouses on 31st December 1854.

——	Hobart Town.	Launceston.	Total.	Duty chargeable.
Brandy - - Gallons	88,293	23,969	112,262	12*s.* per gallon.
Geneva - - „	29,420	12,491	41,911	9*s.* per gallon.
Liqueurs - - „	647	19	666	9*s.* per gallon.
Rum - - „	42,597	18,596	61,193	9*s.* per gallon.
Whiskey - - „	1,673	767	2,440	9*s.* per gallon.
Gin, British - „	20,315	4,795	25,110	9*s.* per gallon.
Tobacco - - „	141,001	45,463	186,464	2*s.* per pound.
Cigars - - „	39,836	11,763	51,599	2*s.* per pound.

Remarks on No. 17.—The amount of duty receivable on these quantities of spirits and tobacco is 150,757*l.*

No. 18.

RETURN of the VALUE of WOOL, OIL, and WHALEBONE, exported in 1854.

——	Value in Pounds Sterling.
	£
Wool 4,419,276 pounds - -	325,384
Oil, black - - - -	5,093
„ sperm - - - -	22,330
Whalebone - - -	440
	353,247

Remarks on No. 18.—As compared with 1853, this shows a decrease in the value of wool exported to the extent of 712*l.* and in oil to the extent of 2,683*l.*

No. 19.

RETURN of the VALUE of EXPORTS in 1854, the Produce of the Colony, not including Wool and Oil.

Articles exported.	Declared Value in Pounds Sterling.	Articles exported.	Declared Value in Pounds Sterling.
	£		£
Timber - - -	306,857	Onions - - -	5,338
Flour - - -	147,311	Bark - - -	3,391
Grain - - -	96,785	Hides and Skins - -	2,445
Hay - - - -	67,000	Malt - - - -	1,925
Live Stock (Horses 56,390*l.*) -	59,645	Natural History specimens -	1,520
Fruit - - -	50,076	Vegetables - - -	1,139
Potatoes - - -	49,767	Trees and Plants - -	573
Bran - - - -	28,822	Tallow - - -	460
Butter and Cheese - -	13,706	Bones and Horns - -	125
Lime - - -	12,738	Baskets - - -	185
Stones - -	8,098		
Hops - - - -	7,868	Total -	865,774

Remarks on No. 19.—Timber and grain are the staple exports of the colony :—

	£	£	
In timber the export is less by	136,304		than in 1853.
In flour „ more by		33,375	„
In grain „ less by	18,702		„
In hay „ more by		10,843	„
In live stock „ „		29,966	„
In fruit „ „		24,971	„
In potatoes „ less by	36,063		„
In bran „ more by		10,391	„
In butter and cheese less by	5,842		„
In lime „ „	995		„
In stones „ more by		4,309	„
In hops „ „		3,740	„

	£	£	
In onions the export is less by	6,378		than in 1853.
In bark „ more by		906	„
In hides and skins less by	2,582		„
In malt „ „	9,547		„
In natural history specimens more by		1,520	„
In vegetables „ more by		316	„
In trees and plants „		114	„
In tallow „ less by	825		„
In bones and horns „	3		„
In baskets „ more by		185	„
	187,241	120,636	

Net decrease, 66,605*l.*

VAN DIEMEN'S LAND.

No. 20.

RETURN showing the CHIEF ARTICLES of IMPORT in 1854.

Articles imported.	From Great Britain.	From British Colonies.	From the United States of America.	From Foreign Ports.	Total.
	£	£	£	£	£
Drapery	269,922	23,082	—	808	293,812
Ironmongery	155,327	27,862	1,741	1,719	186,649
Hosiery and Haberdashery	131,314	9,569	—	81	140,964
Apparel and Slops	105,559	14,828	—	355	120,742
Spirits	86,258	24,177	—	688	111,123
Malt Liquor	96,202	7,858	—	—	104,060
Tea	1,373	41,458	—	52,333	95,164
Cottons and Linens	84,109	8,194	—	—	92,303
Sugar	760	81,224	—	8,060	90,044
Cattle	—	84,638	—	—	84,638
Oilmans' Stores	64,191	15,997	959	699	81,846
Woollen Goods	71,451	958	—	692	73,101
Beef and Provisions	17,109	47,764	1,160	—	66,033
Stationery	58,352	6,288	—	1,122	65,762
Boots and Shoes	60,526	4,928	—	90	65,544
Wines	57,174	7,068	—	125	64,367
Flour	28	17,467	20,845	11,510	49,850
Sheep	60	37,191	—	—	37,251
Timber	4,444	19,345	6	665	24,460
Medicine	20,015	2,686	—	96	22,797
Grain	10,004	11,277	375	—	21,656
Manure	—	2,402	—	3,600	6,002

Remarks on No. 20. as compared with 1853 shows as follows:

Increase.	Decrease.
Drapery.	Apparel and Slops.
Ironmongery.	Spirits.
Hosiery and Haberdashery.	Cottons and Linens.
Malt Liquor.	Sugar.
Tea.	Woollens.
Cattle.	Wines.
Oilman's Stores.	
Beef and Provisions.	
Stationery.	
Boots and Shoes.	
Flour.	
Sheep.	
Timber.	
Medicine.	
Grain.	
Manure.	

No. 21.

RETURN of the NUMBER of PERSONS who have been declared INSOLVENT during the Year 1854.

	Persons declared Insolvent by Creditors.						Persons who have declared themselves Insolvent.					
	No.	Scheduled Assets.			Scheduled Liabilities.		No.	Scheduled Assets.			Scheduled Liabilities.	
		£	s.	d.	£	s. d.		£	s.	d.	£	s. d.
Hobart Town	2	107	0	0	1,153	17 6	31	32,414	19	0	67,769	18 5
Launceston	2	4,295	7	8	4,639	10 0	8	4,580	19	10	25,863	7 4
Total	4	4,402	7	8	5,773	7 6	39	36,995	18	10	93,632	5 9

No. 22.

RETURN relative to LIGHTHOUSES, 1854.

Lighthouse.	Nature of Light exhibited.	By whom managed.	Expense in 1854.	Light Dues received in 1854.
			£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Kent's Group	Revolving	Officer and three men	1,105 0 3	
Bruni Island	Ditto	Ditto	595 4 2	
Low Head	Ditto	Ditto, two men	532 13 8	
Swan Island	Revolving flash	Ditto, three men	674 18 10	5,050 3 6
Goose Island	Fixed	Ditto, three men	563 12 1	
Iron Pot Island	Ditto	Ditto, two men	467 2 6	
			3,938 1 6	5,050 3 6

Remarks to No. 22.—No change.

No. 23.

RETURN of the NUMBER of POST OFFICES and of LETTERS and NEWSPAPERS passing through them during the Year 1854.

			Number.
Post offices and receiving houses			65
Number of persons employed			95
Miles of post roads			675
Letters sent from Hobart Town			231,597
Newspapers sent from Hobart Town			218,000
Letters received			204,414
Newspapers received			122,500
Penny Post	Hobart	Franked letters	13,669
		Unfranked	35,499
	Launceston	Franked letters	199
		Unfranked	15,123
Revenue of the Post Office in 1854			£8,198 6 0
Expenditure of the Post Office in 1854			16,291 9 10

Remarks on No. 23.—As compared with 1853, this shows an increase of three post offices, and an increase in the total number of letters or newspapers passing through to the extent of 72,044.

The revenue has decreased 1,682*l.* 0*s.* 7*d.*

The expenditure has increased 5,199*l.* 16*s.* 9*d.*

No. 24.

RETURN of the PRINCIPAL MANUFACTORIES and TRADES in operation throughout the Colony on the 31st December 1854.

	Number.		Number.
Agricultural implement makers	21	Gunsmiths	7
Auctioneers	19	Ironmongers	21
Bakers	102	Maltsters	13
Basket makers	15	Mast and block manufactories	9
Blacksmiths	144	Mills, flour, wind and water	51
Bonedust manufactories	1	,, steam	23
Brassfoundries	6	Painters and glaziers	41
Breweries	42	Pastrycooks	31
Bricklayers	71	Pianoforte makers	2
Builders	43	Potteries	4
Butchers	151	Printing offices	13
Cabinet makers	38	Publicans	378
Candle manufactories	9	Ropemakers	2
Carpenters	109	Sailmakers	9
Carvers and gilders	4	Sawmills	16
Chemists	22	Shipwrights	25
Cider makers	6	Shoemakers	254
Coachmakers	6	Soapboilers	4
Cooperages	13	Starch manufactories	1
Corn and ship chandlers	20	Stonemasons	55
Dyers	1	Tailors	84
Engineers	15	Tanners	27
Fellmongers	28	Tinworkers	31
Foundries	5	Tobacconists	16
Furriers	9	Turners	10
General dealers	343	Watchmakers	22
Glue and size makers	6	Wheelwrights	72
Goldbeaters	1	Wine merchants	30
Groceries	48	Woolstaplers	7

Remarks on No. 24.—As compared with 1853 there appears to be a falling off among the bakers, blacksmiths, butchers, carpenters, general dealers, shoemakers, tailors, and tanners, and an increase in the brewers, corn chandlers, ironmongers, mast and block makers, mills, saw-mills, wheelwrights, &c.

No. 25.

RETURN relative to MUNICIPALITIES and ROAD TRUSTS in 1854.

Corporate Body.		Amount raised in the Year 1854.	Amount expended in the Year 1854.
		£	£
Municipalities	Hobart Town	23,201	17,777
	Launceston	7,323	5,762
Road Trusts	Hamilton	5,145	3,263
	Longford	4,306	3,897
	Westbury	2,438	2,011
	Glamorgan	2,191	1,794
	Morven	1,533	1,193
	Devon	1,236	951
	Swanport	806	372
	Oatlands	777	122
	Great Lake	684	155
	Lower Derwent	580	1,193
	Brown's River	461	213
	Pembroke	437	257
	Breadalbane	364	288
	Sorell	275	231
	Horton	261	98
	Richmond	204	93
	£	52,222	39,670

Remarks on No. 25. as compared with 1853.

This shows an increase in the Receipts of the Municipality of Hobart - of £16,714
and in the Expenditure - - - - of £10,371
In the Receipts of Launceston - - - - - of £3,322
and in the Expenditure - - - - of £1,761
In the Receipts from Road Trusts - - - - - of £18,576
and in the Expenditure - - - - of £13,831

No. 26.

RETURN of the AVERAGE WAGES paid to MECHANICS and LABOURERS in the Colony during 1854 without Board and Lodging.

Trades.		Hobart.	Launceston.	Interior.
		s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
Bricklayers	per diem	15 0	12 0	8s. to 20s.
Carpenters	„	13 0	13 0	8s. to 15s.
Joiners	„	13 6	14 0	8s. to 15s.
Masons, Cutters	„	15 0	14 0	7s. 6d. to 15s.
Masons, Builders	„	16 0	18 0	8s. to 20s.
Painters	„	12 0	12 0	7s. 6d. to 20s.
Plumbers	„	14 0	16 0	8s. to 20s.
Plasterers	„	15 0	12 0	7s. to 15s.
Quarrymen	„	8 6	9 0	6s. to 15s.
Labourers	„	5s. to 10s.	5s. to 10s.	5s. to 15s.

Wages of Domestic Servants vary from 12*l.* to 50*l.* with (of course) board and lodging.

Remarks on No. 26. as compared with 1853.—Very slight difference.

No. 27.

RETURN showing the AVERAGE PRICES of PROVISIONS at HOBART TOWN, on the 31st December 1854.

		£	s.	d.
Meat.—Beef	per pound	0	0	6
Mutton	„	0	0	6
Veal	„	0	1	0
Pork	„	0	1	2
Bacon	„	0	1	9
Ham	„	0	1	9
Bread	per pound	0	0	4¼
Butter fresh	„	0	2	6
Cheese	„	0	1	6
Flour	per cwt.	1	18	0
Candles, tallow	per pound	0	1	0
Lampoil	per gallon	0	1	0
Tea	per pound	0	2	6
Sugar, brown	„	0	0	3
„ loaf	„	0	0	6
Tobacco	„	0	4	0
Potatoes	per cwt.	1	8	0
Rice	per pound	0	0	5
Coffee	„	0	1	6
Salt	„	0	0	2
Soap	„	0	0	4
Starch	„	0	0	9
Fuel.—Coals, Sydney		6	0	0
„ Port Arthur		2	10	0
„ New Town		2	5	0
Firewood, she oak, cut up		2	0	0
„ gum „		1	10	0
„ gum, uncut		1	0	0

Remarks on No. 27.—As compared with 1854 this shows :—

Increase.	Decrease.
Pork, 2*d.* per lb.	Beef, 5*d.* per lb.
Cheese, 3*d.* per lb.	Mutton, 4*d.* per lb.
Potatoes, 11*s.* per cwt.	Butter, 1*s.* per lb.
Rice, ½*d.* per lb.	Sugar, ½*d.* per lb.
	Coffee, 1*s.* per lb.

No. 28.

RETURN of the REVENUE of the COLONY for the Year 1854.

From what Source derived.	Amount.		
	£	s.	d.
Customs	182,489	7	10
Port and harbour dues	5,050	3	6
Rents	545	14	0
Tolls	2,464	11	6
Licences	23,917	11	0
Postage	6,701	3	3
Fees of office	1,106	6	0
Fines, fees of court, and forfeitures	9,379	1	4
Quit rents	405	19	10
Sale of Government property	168	14	10
Reimbursements in aid of expenses incurred by the Government	24,858	1	0
Deposit account	6,412	15	7
Interest	20	5	4
Miscellaneous receipts	4,261	10	10
Immigration deposits	7,773	10	0
Total £	275,554	15	10

Remarks on No. 28.—As compared with 1853 this shows an increase of 17,682*l.*; principally in the customs and licences.

VAN DIEMEN'S LAND.

No. 29.

RETURN of the EXPENDITURE of the COLONY in 1854 from the General Revenue.

On what Service.	Amount.		
	£	s.	d.
Civil and legislative establishments	43,199	0	9
Police and gaols	61,855	12	3
Judicial	13,129	2	5
Ecclesiastical	12,757	9	4
Miscellaneous establishment	22,147	14	9
Services, exclusive of establishments	64,888	8	1
Works and buildings	13,875	3	1
Roads and streets	11,572	7	7
In aid of public institutions	3,150	0	0
Remittances to Agent General	19,000	0	0
Immigration	11,075	7	7
Total £	276,650	5	10

Remarks on No. 29.—As compared with 1853 this shows an increase of 85,207*l.*

No. 30.

RETURN of the LAND REVENUE of the COLONY in 1854.

Source from which derived.	Amount.		
	£	s.	d.
Sale of Crown land by auction	47,171	18	6
Sale of land under regulations of November 1851	25,511	0	0
Licences to occupy Crown land	25,141	12	8
Rent of Crown land selected for future purchase	4,010	11	7
Fees received by the Surveyor-General	3,524	5	6
Fees for surveys	978	5	0
Fees for diagrams on grant deeds	152	17	6
Moiety of fines on grants	57	7	1
Quit rents subsequent to April 1846	374	14	0
One third for redemption of quit rents	156	1	5
Royalty on coals	122	11	10
Repayments on account of passage of immigrants	3,466	10	0
Repayments by immigrants	74	15	0
Sale of Government property	273	6	6
Instalment of debt from Bridgewater Commissioners	500	0	0
Interest from " "	322	10	0
Rent of observatory building	50	0	0
For advertising in the Gazette	0	17	6
Repayments by heads of departments	323	10	2
Salary of a surveyor forfeited	12	18	7
Total £	112,225	12	7

Remarks on No. 30.—As compared with 1853 this shows an increase of 21,535*l.*

No. 31.

RETURN showing the EXPENDITURE from the LAND FUND during the Year 1854.

	Service.				Amount.		
					£	s.	d.
Establishments.	Survey Department				16,102	3	7
	Commissioner of Titles				994	18	0
	Correspondence, collection and audit of Land Revenue				2,111	5	6
	Accountant of Stores				70	3	5
	Aborigines				874	4	6
	Public Works				641	17	7
	Immigration Officers				1,437	15	3
	Miscellaneous				5,766	15	2
	Transport				89	2	5
	Assessments				19,329	7	9
	Rents				450	0	0
	Charitable Allowances				26	6	1
	Roads, Streets, and Bridges				4,366	0	6
	Works and Buildings				993	2	7
	Survey of Land				884	2	10
	Immigration				9,420	12	8
	* Accountant of Stores				5,298	10	1
	Advances to heads of Departments				350	0	0
	Temporary increase to Officers whose Salaries are provided for under the Imperial Act 13 & 14 Vict., No. 59.—						
			£	s.	d.		
	viz. Schedule Part 1.	-	6,788	0	1		
	" 2.	-	3,506	8	5		
	" 3.	-	10,181	0	4		
						20,475	8 10
		Total	-	£		89,681	16 9

* This includes rations for the aborigines.

Remarks on No. 31.—As compared with 1853, this shows an increase of 12,609*l.*

No. 32.

RETURN relative to LANDS granted, sold, or held under DEPASTURING LICENCES on 31st December 1854.

	A.	R.	P.
Number of acres of land in the colony	14,482,892	0	0
Number of acres of land granted or sold	2,804,183	0	0
Number of acres of land held under Depasturing licences on 31st December 1854, producing a rental of 29,152*l* 4*s*. 3*d*.	2,284,214	0	0
Country allotments sold in 1854 containing	32,433	1	30
Amount for which the country allotments sold, 34,157*l*. 11*s*.			
Average price per acre, 21*s*. 0¾*d*. per acre.			
Town and suburban allotments sold in 1854 containing	2,245	2	31¾
Amount for which town and suburban allotments sold, 41,962*l*. 7*s*.			
Average price per acre 18*l*. 13*s*. 8½*d*.			

Remarks on No. 32.—As compared with 1853, this shows a decrease in the quantity of country land sold, of 3,117 acres, but an increase of 9*d*. an acre in the average price; of town and suburban allotments an increase of 1,958 acres, but a decrease of 20*l*. 17*s*. an acre in the average price. This may easily be accounted for, as nearly all the best town and suburban land in the island has been sold.

The roads that are now being opened to the western country will throw open to the public an immense extent of country available for pasturage.

VAN DIEMEN'S LAND.

No. 33.

RETURN of the NUMBER of Acres in Crop, the Nature of the Crop, and the Produce in 1854.

Nature of Crop.	Acres in Cultivation.	Produce.
	Acres.	Bushels.
Barley	10,547¾	125,835
Beans	29¾	653
Oats	35,320½	526,547
Peas	459	6,665
Wheat	49,920	790,588¼
Tares	303¼	1,467
		Tons.
Carrots	108¾	508
Hops	55	27
Hay, or English grasses	27,023¾	18,886
Mangel Wurzel	42¾	92
Potatoes	5,932½	23,256
Turnips	4,989¼	21,903
Total	127,732	—

Remarks on No. 33.—As compared with 1853, this shows :—

Increase.	Decrease.
Oats, 4,368 acres.	Wheat, 1,203 acres.
Peas, 54 acres.	Barley, 1,235.
Potatoes, 402 acres.	Beans, 61 acres.
Turnips, 1,346 acres.	Mangel wurzel, 11 acres.
English grasses, 7,782 acres.	Tares, 68 acres.

Total increase, 11,286 acres.

No. 34.

RETURN of the NUMBER of LIVE STOCK in the Colony on the 31st December 1854.

——	Sheep.	Horned Cattle.	Horses.	Goats.	Pigs.	Asses.	Mules.
1. Campbell Town	280,140	3,947	1,580	17	695	—	—
2. Hamilton	264,944	8,739	1,152	18	1,281	—	—
3. Oatlands	238,894	4,528	1,040	10	1,280	1	—
4. Bothwell	174,544	2,939	662	2	671	—	1
5. Fingal	156,480	5,334	664	125	1,339	—	—
6. Great Swanport	151,194	2,690	530	93	725	—	—
7. Norfolk Plains	136,243	5,241	1,548	27	1,844	—	—
8. Richmond	66,958	3,354	1,191	210	1,956	—	—
9. George Town	61,601	1,890	194	34	260	—	—
10. Morven	53,404	3,144	1,138	31	1,003	—	—
11. Launceston	50,281	6,740	1,127	100	1,274	—	—
12. Brighton	49,934	2,177	1,094	121	1,410	—	—
13. Sorell	47,176	2,322	701	34	1,792	10	—
14. New Norfolk	39,224	1,398	554	23	560	1	—
15. Westbury	34,533	35,703	2,120	97	2,505	—	—
16. Horton	8,032	7,541	294	57	960	—	—
17. Hobart Town	6,663	1,254	1,108	402	1,635	1	4
18. Huon	6,553	2,981	405	123	738	1	—
19. Port Sorell	4,510	1,631	251	97	506	—	—
20. Franklin	—	199	31	8	164	—	—
	1,831,308	103,752	17,384	1,629	22,598	14	5

Remarks on No. 34.—As compared with 1853 :—

Increase.	Decrease.
Horses, 1,929	Sheep, 111,242
Cattle, 11,949	Goats, 176
Asses, 2	Pigs, 5,484.
Mules, 5	

The seven first districts are almost exclusively sheep districts.

No. 15. is an extensive cattle district, rich land and well watered.

No. 20. has just been separated from No. 18. and is a new district, very thickly wooded, from which most of the timber exported is procured.

In No 13. the asses are used as beasts of burden to convey grain over the rocky gullies of "Paradise."

No. 16. belongs almost entirely to the Van Diemen's Land Company.

No. 35.

RETURN of the number of CIVIL CASES tried and the number of CASES in which damages were assessed by Juries in the Supreme Court in 1854.

Before Juries of twelve.		Before Juries of four.		Total.
Common and mixed.	Special.	Defended.	Undefended, in which damages were assessed.	
12	8	18	2	40

Remarks on No. 35 as compared with 1853.—Increase of twelve common jury cases; two special cases; ten defended cases: total increase twenty-four cases.

No. 36.

RETURN of CONVICTIONS in the Supreme Court in 1854.

Felonies.	Misdemeanors.	Total.
98	7	105

Remarks on No. 36. as compared with 1853.—Decrease of fourteen felonies and six misdemeanors.

No. 37.

RETURN of the number of CONVICTIONS before the Courts of Quarter Sessions in 1854.

Crimes against the person.	Crimes against property.	Total.
34	128	162

No. 38.

RETURN of the number of CRIMINALS executed in the Colony in 1854.

Men who have been Convicts.	Male Convicts.	Total.
4	3	7

Remarks on No. 38. as compared with 1853.

Decrease of four criminals.

No. 39.

RETURN of PROCESS issued out of the COURT OF REQUESTS during the Year 1854.

Summonses issued.	Fieri Facias.	Capias ad Satisfaciendum.	Actions brought.	Actions tried.
774	152	1	774	430

Remarks on No. 39.—The actions in this Court are limited to 10*l.* in Hobart Town, and to 30*l.* in the county districts.

No. 40.

RETURN of the NUMBER of CONDITIONAL PARDONS and of TICKETS OF LEAVE issued during 1854.

Conditional Pardons granted.	Tickets of Leave issued.	Deaths of Convicts reported.
2,027	4,058	128

Remarks on No. 40.—The 4,058 ticket-of-leave holders will, if their conduct continue good, be entitled next year to conditional pardons.

No. 41.

RETURN relative to the GOVERNMENT SCHOOLS in VAN DIEMEN'S LAND, 1854.

Number of Schools aided by Government.	Scholars attending.			Expense in 1854.		
	Boys.	Girls.	Total.	£	s.	d.
50	1,635	1,266	2,901	7,269	2	4

Remarks on No. 41., as compared with 1853:—

An increase in expense of 1,950*l.*
A decrease of 195 boys and 225 girls.

No. 42.

RETURN relative to CHILDREN in the QUEEN'S ORPHAN SCHOOLS, 1854.

Children chargeable on Colonial Funds.			Children chargeable on Convict Funds.			Cases of Sickness in the Year.	Deaths.	Number admitted in 1854.			Number apprenticed or discharged in 1854.			Total Number in the Schools on 31st December 1854.		
M.	F.	Tot.	M.	F.	Tot.			M.	F.	Tot.	M.	F.	Tot.	M.	F.	Tot.
67	53	120	171	131	302	775	53	79	70	149	56	63	119	238	184	422

Remarks on No. 42.—The great number of deaths was owing to the removal to the schools of a number of sickly infants from the female factory.

VAN DIEMEN'S LAND.

No. 43.

RETURN of DISEASES TREATED at Her Majesty's Colonial Hospital, in 1854.

Diseases.	Cases treated.	Deaths.
Diseases of Stomach and Bowels -	604	12
Diseases of the Lungs - -	538	58
Abscesses and Ulcers - -	489	3
Diseases of the Eyes - - -	330	—
Rheumatic Affections - -	287	3
Diseases of the Brain - -	255	34
Wounds and Injuries - -	247	6
Venereal Affections - - -	106	2
Diseases of the Skin - -	60	—
Fevers - - - -	46	3
Dropsies - - - -	21	11
Diseases of the Liver - -	18	4
Other Diseases - - -	448	32
Total - -	3,449	168

Remarks on No. 43. as compared with 1853 :—

Decrease of 227 cases and 99 deaths.
Fewer cases of Lung disease.
„ Eyes.
„ Wounds, &c.
„ Fevers.
More cases of Stomach diseases.
„ Abscesses, &c.

The cases treated in these hospitals are almost exclusively those of convicts.

No. 44.

RETURN of PERSONS TREATED in the Lunatic Asylums in 1854.

	Males.	Females.	Total.
Remaining on 31st December 1853 :—			
Free Persons - - -	59	36	95
Convicts - - - -	108	47	155
Admitted during 1854 - - -	60	19	79
Discharged cured in 1854 - - -	26	23	49
Improved - - - -	2	—	2
Without improvement to friends - -	8	—	8
Died - - - - -	25	6	31
Escaped (since re-captured 5) - - -	6	—	6
Number remaining on 31st December 1854 :—			
Free Persons - - -	53	33	86
Convicts - - - -	111	42	153
Total - -	164	75	239

Remarks on No. 44. as compared with 1853 :—

20 more cases admitted.
12 more cured.
5 more died.

Upwards of 200 of the cases are supposed to be incurable.

VAN DIEMEN'S LAND.

No. 45.

RETORN of the NUMBER of ABORIGINES in the COLONY and located at OYSTER COVE on 31st December 1854.

Number of Aborigines in the Colony.					Number of Officers on the Establishment.	Expense of the Oyster Cove Establishment in 1854.
Men.	Women.	Children.		Total.		
		Boys.	Girls.			
3	11	2	—	16	2	£ 2,006 s. 8 d. 8 averaging 125*l.* a head per annum.

NOTE.—One man went to sea in 1854 on board a whaler.

One woman married to a sawyer in 1854, to whom was granted out of the Land Fund a dowry of 24*l.* a year.

In 1815 the number of aborigines was estimated at - - 5,000
1835 the number was known to be - - - 111
1845 „ „ - - - - 45
1855 „ „ - - - - 16

Remarks on No. 45.—In 1847 the aborigines were removed from Flinder's Island, where the climate was cold and bleak, to the sheltered inlet called Oyster Cove. There were removed

13 men.
22 women.
5 boys.
5 girls.

In the 7 years 9 men, 10 women, 3 boys, and 5 girls have died. No children have been born.

The rations supplied to the aborigines are on a most liberal scale, and they use large quantities of tobacco. They are permitted to go out on hunting parties for days together, but although every care is taken of them the race will be extinct in the course of a very few years.

No. 46.

SYNOPSIS of METEOROLOGICAL TABLES in 1854.

Thermometer in shade.			Rain.		Remarks.
Maximum.	Minimum.	Mean.	Number of days on which rain fell.	Quantity in inches.	
85·00	33·5	53·03	42	30·56	Thunder Storms, January. „ March. „ October. „ November. Hot winds, January, N.W. Gale of wind, 26th February, with heavy rain, 8¾ inches having fallen in 38 hours, causing a flood. Gale of wind on 22d March, with heavy rain, causing a flood. Gale of wind on 16th September, lasting 24 hours. The mean pressure of the year was 29,785 inches.

Remarks on No. 46. as compared with 1853 :—

The quantity of rain which fell in 1854 exceeded that of 1853 by 16·03 inches, and also exceeded that of any former year since 1842, except 1849, when the rain fall was 33·52 inches.

In 1854 less rain fell in the four winter months than in the month of February, which is the height of the Tasmanian summer.

No. 47.

RETURN of the EXPENDITURE from the COMMISSARIAT CHEST in 1854.

Service.	Amount.
	£ s. d.
Commissariat, including provisions, fuel, and light for the Army and Ordnance	59,600 15 2
Army services, staff and regimental	34,547 7 10
Ordnance and engineers services	9,787 14 9
Advances in aid of naval and other departments	3,408 2 10
Convict services	172,973 18 8
Total £	280,317 19 3

Remarks on No. 47. as compared with 1853 :—
Increase of expense on account of convict services, 7,748*l.*
Total increase of expenditure, 11,403*l.*

No. 48.

RETURN relative to the CONSERVANCY of the PEACE, 1854.

Country gentlemen	113
Officers holding civil appointments	49
Merchants and bankers	31
Retired officers	20
Surgeons	15
Clergymen	9
Gentlemen in the two principal towns	9
Naval and military officers on full pay	9
Barristers	3
	268

Remarks on No. 48.—It is the intention of the Government to omit the names of the nine clergymen from the next commission of the peace, in consequence of a wish to that effect expressed by the Lord Bishop of Tasmania.

No. 49.

RETURN showing the NUMBER of HOUSES in the COLONY, according to the last Census, which was taken on 1st March 1851.

Built of Stone or Brick.	Built of Wood.	Total.	Inhabited in 1851.	Uninhabited in 1851.
5,723	6,121	11,844	11,245	599

Remarks on No. 49.—The number of houses, especially wooden ones, must have greatly increased since 1851.

No. 50.

RETURN showing the RELIGIOUS DENOMINATIONS in the Colony on 1st March 1851, when the last Census was taken.

Church of England	45,073
Church of Scotland	4,485
Church of Rome	12,444
Wesleyans	3,772
Other Dissenters	2,379
Jews	435
Pagans and Mahommedans	21

Remarks on No. 50.—It is supposed that in consequence of the great influx of Irish immigrants during the last few years, the number of Roman Catholics has much increased.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA.

No. 34.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA.

No. 34.

Copy of a DESPATCH from Acting Governor Finniss, to the Right Hon. Sir George Grey, Bart., G.C.B.

(No. 29.) Adelaide, April 7, 1855.

Sir, (Received Sept. 21, 1855.)

In transmitting the annual Blue Book for 1854, prepared by Mr. Richardson, the acting Colonial Secretary, I have the honour to draw your attention to the leading facts detailed in those returns, and to offer such remarks upon the general progress of the colony as may serve to show its present social and commercial condition.

Population.

The number of persons of European descent was, at the close of 1853, assumed to be 78,944 souls. At the close of the year 1854, this number had increased to 92,545 souls. The number of Government immigrants during this period was 8,814. The excess of births over deaths amounted to 2,105. Hence the increase of population at the close of the year, which amounted to 13,601 souls, must have arisen chiefly from an excess of arrivals over departures.

A constant interchange of population is going on, which will be best understood by giving the number of arrivals, which was 18,333, and departures, which was 6,844. The Government immigrants, despatched by the Land and Emigration Commissioners, arrived in thirty vessels, at various periods of the year, and were much needed, as, from the want of labour during the early part of 1854, it was difficult to obtain contracts for the various public works which were on the estimates. This state of things gradually improved, and before the close of the year it became evident that all works for which provision had been made in the estimates might be safely and advantageously proceeded with.

Pauperism.

During this same year 148 men, 216 women, and 321 children were recipients of Government relief; but on the last day of the year there were 37 men, 81 women, and 136 children on the list of destitute persons.

The cost of out-door relief is for adults 9*d.* a day each, and for children half this sum.

The cost of in-door relief, which includes, besides, rations, medicines, medical attendance, clothing, and lodging, is equal to about 1*s.* 6*d.* a day for each adult, and 10½*d.* for each child.

Hospital.

In the public hospital the number of admissions during the year was 378 males and 199 females, the daily average being 37 males and 21 females.

Forty-two males and twenty-three females died during the year within this establishment.

Lunatic Asylum.

The number of patients received into the Lunatic Asylum during the year was 31 males and 27 females; the daily average of persons under treatment was 22 males and 16 females. There occurred four deaths, one male and three females.

Crime.

The supreme court, which holds its sessions in Adelaide only, is presided over by two judges; and there are in the rural districts and in Adelaide together fourteen minor courts, attended by nine stipendiary and by about 109 unpaid magistrates.

The number of convictions in the supreme court for the higher criminal offences was 69, including one case of capital sentence.

The number of cases heard and determined in the several local courts were, criminal trials, assaults, and drunkenness, 2,168.

Informations under Acts of Council, 1,625; these numbers, under both heads of classification, include cases of dismissal as well as convictions, the separate returns of which have not been furnished to the Government.

Police.

The means under the control of the Government for the protection of life and property, and the detection of offenders, consist of a police force of 100

mounted men, 102 foot police constables, and 36 aboriginal police—the annual cost of which in 1854 was 38,219*l.*

Education.

The progress of education in a new colony is necessarily slow. The dispersed condition of the population, and the value of the labour of children to parents and relatives, are difficulties against which a Government endeavouring to promote habits of frequent attendance at established schools has to contend. The Board of Education, constituted by Act of Council to license teachers and assist them by public grants in aid of the school fees, report favourably of the result of their efforts, and of the Government inspection; and remark in these words, that "the marked improvement which is gradually taking place in the acquire-"ments and efficiency of teachers; the important additions to the number of "schools, especially in the country districts, where they were most needed; "and the permanency and stability which are beginning to characterize many "of these establishments, are all so many indications of steady progress in the "state of public education, which place the present in no unfavourable com-"parison with the past."

Some estimate may be formed of the results of the system now in operation by stating that the number of licensed schools at the close of the past year was:—

In Adelaide and other towns	32
In the suburban districts	26
In the rural districts	67

These schools during the month of December were attended by 3,008 boys and by 2,456 girls.

Agriculture.

From returns made to the Government, it appears that 1,217,323 acres of land have been alienated from the Crown during the progress of the colony, and up to the end of 1854. The number of acres occupied is now throughout the colony 663,423 acres, of which 129,692 are under cultivation with the following crops:—

Wheat	89,945 acres	Potatoes	1,712 acres
Oats	4,359 „	Vineyards	409 „
Barley	6,454 „	Orchards	451 „
Hay	23,402 „	Other crops	391 „
Maize	43 „		

Upon these lands there are kept or depastured, irrespective of the cattle roaming on the waste lands under leases to stockholders for fourteen years, 10,184 horses, 29,638 cows, 21,923 bullocks, 22,659 calves, 193,749 sheep, 830 goats, and 17,343 swine.

The total value of the grain, flour, hay, potatoes, butter, cheese, and other farm produce exported in the year 1854 amounted to 411,978*l.*, of which grain made up 40,717*l.*, flour and bran 275,550*l.*, and hay 83,289*l.*

The weight of the prize cereals at the agricultural exhibition of 1855 was, wheat, 64 lbs. 14 oz., 65 lbs. 12 oz., 64 lbs. 15 oz; oats, 44 lbs. 2 oz., 41lbs. 13 oz.; and barley, 59 lbs. 2 oz., 54 lbs. 14 oz., the bushel measure.

The past year has been highly unfavourable to agriculture in consequence of the dryness of the season; the crops cannot be estimated at half their usual produce.

Land Sales.

The lands alienated from the Crown during the year 1854 were 213,925 acres, which realized the sum of 377,303*l.*, being the largest amount yet derived from this source in any year.

The greatest vigour and activity have been displayed in the surveys, to endeavour to meet this large demand for land: the field parties were increased in number, and additional assistance furnished in the office work. By these means no less than 313,949 acres were surveyed. The cost of the field work was 7*d.* an acre; and the cost of the land office, in which 2,425 grants were prepared, superintendence, and all office expenses, being added, the cost of these surveys was $9\frac{9}{10}$*d.* an acre, an average somewhat in excess of previous years.

The returns required to be annually furnished to the Imperial Government accompany this despatch, and contain all necessary details respecting the survey department.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA.

I do not expect a continuance of these large land sales; indeed, a falling off is already visible during the first quarter of the current year, which clearly indicates that we must be prepared for diminished revenue from this source.

Pastoral Interests.

Events during the year 1854 were highly favourable to the development of the pastoral interests of the colony. The supply of labour has been sufficient, and the value of stock has much increased, so that every encouragement has facilitated the discovery and occupation of new lands.

The total quantity of lands now occupied under fourteen years' leases exceeds 10,281,000 acres. These "runs" produce an annual rental of 9,724*l.*, and maintain 1,574,975 sheep, besides great cattle, the numbers of which are not included in any authentic return. The total number of sheep in the province, from returns which may be relied on, is estimated at 1,768,724.

Not many years back the stockholders lamented the circumscribed space open to their exertions and enterprise, and were apprehensive that the depasturing capabilities of the colony were limited to the country then occupied. Now, however, the desert interior is being rapidly subdued to the purposes of the squatter; and no doubt, amongst the 185 millions of acres of unsold and unoccupied lands which lie within the boundaries of the colony, there is ample pasture for all the increase of stock which a rapidly increasing population will require either for subsistence or profit.

Imports and Exports.

The total value of all imports into the colony during the year 1854 was 2,147,107*l.* Deducting 92,654*l.* of bullion and coin, the net imports were 2,054,453*l.*

The total value of exports was 1,322,822*l.* The amount of bullion and coin to be deducted, viz., 499,718*l.*, leaves the net value of exports 823,104*l.* Of this value, however, 128,682*l.* consisted of goods re-exported; and the staple produce of the colony was only equal in value to 694,422*l.*

The imports have evidently exceeded the means of the colonists, and the effect is becoming apparent in the diminished receipts of customs for the current quarter.

Tonnage.

The tonnage of vessels inwards at Port Adelaide was 146,666 tons, and of vessels outwards, 143,868 tons; the total tonnage during the year being 290,534 tons.

The amount of duties levied at the Customs for the year ended 31st December 1854 was 166,212*l.*

Revenue and Expenditure.

The receipts of *ordinary revenue* were during 1854—from Customs and internal revenue, 200,774*l.*; transfer from the Land Fund, 144,000*l.*; raised by way of loan on the security of colonial revenue bonds, for railway purposes, 104,655*l.*, making a total receipt on account of ordinary revenue of 449,429*l.* A previous balance (143,240*l.*) brought forward increased the income to the sum of 592,670*l.*

The expenditure of the colonial government, chargeable against this income, amounted to 393,288*l.*, leaving a balance for the service of the year 1855, of 199,382*l.*

The receipts of *territorial revenue* were, from land sales and rents of Crown lands, 392,302*l.* If the balance of the previous year (132,949*l.*) be added, the sum of 525,251*l.* was available for the service of the year 1854.

The total expenditure chargeable against this receipt amounted to 200,353*l.*, which includes actual expenditure in the colony, and a grant of 144,000*l.* to the ordinary revenue, as before stated. Hence there resulted a balance of 324,898*l.* at the disposal of the colonial government. Of this balance, 231,349*l.* was remitted during 1854 to the Land and Emigration Commissioners, leaving a net available balance of territorial revenue at the disposal of the colonial government for the year 1855, amounting to 93,549*l.* The total ways and means derived from revenue of all kinds were thus 973,922*l.*; and the total expenditure, including remittances to the Land and Emigration Commissioners under the head of expenditure, was 680,990*l.*; the general balance being 292,931*l.*, to be brought forward for the current year.

Legislation, and Progress of Public Improvements.

The Legislative Council during the Session of 1854 passed 24 Acts, all of which were assented to by the Governor, except No. 12, which, being an Act to increase his own salary, was reserved for the signification of Her Majesty's pleasure.

The titles of these several Acts are appended. Some of them require special notice. Act No. 2, to organize and establish a volunteer military force in South Australia, has been brought into operation by the raising, arming, and equipping of two companies of artillery and twelve companies of infantry, formed into two battalions.

The establishment consists of eight staff officers and serjeants, two lieutenant-colonels, forty-two officers, and 840 rank and file.

The training of this force under Major Moore, of Her Majesty's 11th Regiment, who has been appointed colonel commandant of the volunteer force, is proceeding satisfactorily.

The Militia Act, No. 9, is accordingly in abeyance, the compulsory enrolment by ballot having been made contingent on the non-enrolment of volunteers in sufficient numbers.

The next Acts in importance are Nos. 18 and 20, which relate to the raising of loans, secured on the colonial revenue, for the purposes respectively of constructing a railway from the capital to a town about twenty-six miles distant, and for the deepening of the harbour.

These Acts have been passed on the principle that it is wise to devote a portion of the surplus revenue for a limited number of years to pay the interest and principal of loans to be raised by the issue of Government bonds secured on such appropriations, the proceeds to be applied in the construction of railways and other reproductive works.

The difficulty of moving English capitalists to invest in colonial railways, and the impossibility of constructing such works by the Government out of the ordinary resources of the colony, have rendered it necessary either to forego these important improvements of modern times, or to execute them by means of loans.

There appears to be no reason to doubt the ultimate success of these Government investments; and a colonial revenue which, being at present sufficient to bear the charges incurred by these loans, must necessarily continue to increase with the increase of wealth and population, cannot fail to redeem these liabilities, if kept within the limits of an existing surplus.

Public improvements, upon which 58,333*l.* were expended during 1854, have been carried on. The principal works were, additions to the legislative council chamber; convict prison and stockade; armory, and additions to police barracks; lighthouse on Troubridge shoal; tramway of eight miles to connect the River Murray with the sea at Port Elliott; breakwater at Port Elliott. When these and other works in progress are completed, they are estimated to cost about 187,793*l.*, provision for which is made in Acts of appropriation, or land fund estimates which have been laid before the Legislative Council.

In comparing this statement with the Blue Book return, it will be found to differ in the amount of expenditure, because I have omitted the sum of 80,000*l.* for a new Lunatic Asylum, as it is doubtful whether this work will be proceeded with at present, owing to its great cost.

Roads and Bridges.

In addition to the expenditure on public works which I have given, very extensive improvements were carried out under the head of roads and bridges.

Thus 64,000*l.* were expended in the commencement of the Adelaide City and Port Railway, whilst upwards of 92,000*l.* were expended on the main roads of the colony, and 12,648*l.* were contributed by Government for the making and repair of district roads, in aid of an equivalent sum raised by district assessment.

Similar aid to the extent of 10,500*l.* was granted to the corporation of the city of Adelaide. These several amounts, together with other minor improvements, are included in a gross expenditure of 199,564*l.*, which was incurred during the year on public improvements beyond the amount of 58,333*l.* before adverted to.

I have, &c.
(Signed) B. T. FINNISS.

The Right Hon.
Sir George Grey, Bart., G.C.B.,
&c. &c.

RETURN of LAND sold during the

COUNTY OR DISTRICT.	Number and extent of lots sold in the colony.							Price named for the land.		
	Not exceeding 320 acres.		Above 320, but not exceeding 640 acres.		Total No. of lots sold.	Average size of lots.	Total number of acres sold.	Minimum price per acre, if sold by auction.	Price per acre, if sold after exposure to, but not by auction.	Upset price, if any specially named for the land.
	No. of lot.	No. of acres.	No. of lot.	No. of acres.						
ADELAIDE—		A. R. P.				A. R. P.	A. R. P.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Town lots	—	- - -	—	—						
Suburban lots	239	5,417 3 0	1	534	543	68 0 24	37,004 3 0	1 0 0 1/10	1 17 9 1/10	1 0 0
Country lots	294	26,620 0 0	9	4,433						
Special country lots, if any	—	- - -	—	—						
HINDMARSH—										
Town lots	87	39 0 29	—	—						80 0 0
Suburban lots	24	1,776 0 0	—	—						—
Country lots	231	19,022 0 0	6	3,078	342	70 1 25	23,991 0 29	1 0 0 1/10	1 4 3 3/10	1 0 0
Special country lots, if any	1	76 0 0	—	—						—
STANLEY—										
Town lots	32	16 0 0	—	—						10 0 0
Suburban lots	6	480 0 0	—	—						—
Country lots	147	14,798 0 0	10	5,410	195	116 0 29	20,704 0 0	1 0 0 1/10	1 0 0	1 0 0
Special country lots, if any	—	- - -	—	—						—
GAWLER—										
Town lots	—	- - -	—	—						
Suburban lots	12	963 0 0	—	—	19	97 2 23	1,860 0 0	1 0 6	1 0 0	1 0 0
Country lots	6	547 0 0	—	—						
Special country lots, if any	—	- - -	1	350						
LIGHT—										
Town lots	—	- - -	—	—						
Suburban lots	19	1,828 0 0	3	1,704	461	144 3 9	66,653 0 0	1 0 0 1/10	1 1 6 8/10	1 0 0
Country lots	395	40,328 0 0	42	22,448						
Special country lots, if any	1	95 0 0	—	—						
EYRE—										
Town lots	—	- - -	—	—						
Suburban lots	—	- - -	—	—	46	149 1 12	6,869 0 0	1 0 0 5/10	0 19 10 2/10	1 0 0
Country lots	44	6,117 0 0	2	752						
Special country lots, if any	—	- - -	—	—						
STURT—										
Town lots	—	- - -	—	—						
Suburban lots	—	- - -	—	—						
Country lots	200	21,579 0 0	6	4,483	206	126 2 2	26,062 0 0	1 1 0 2/10	1 5 0 4/10	1 0 0
Special country lots, if any	—	- - -	—	—						
GREY—										
Town lots	61	17 0 0	—	—						10 0 0
Suburban lots	—	- - -	—	—						—
Country lots	135	13,327 0 0	18	9,472	214	106 2 18	22,816 0 0	1 3 1	1 6 8 6/10	1 0 0
Special country lots, if any	—	- - -	—	—						—
ROBE—		200								
Town lots	8		—	—						10 0 0
Suburban lots	—	- - -	—	—						—
Country lots	5	636 0 0	—	—	13	49 0 12	638 0 0	1 0 0 7/10	- -	1 0 0
Special country lots, if any	—	- - -	—	—						—
RUSSELL—										
Town lots	—	- - -	—	—						
Suburban lots	—	- - -	—	—						
Country lots	4	315 0 0	—	—	4	78 3 0	315 0 0	1 2 2	1 0 0	1 0 0
Special country lots, if any	—	- - -	—	—						
FLINDERS—										
Town lots	—	- - -	—	—						
Suburban lots	—	- - -	—	—						
Country lots	25	2,107 0 0	—	—	25	84 1 4	2,107 0 0	1 0 0 7/10	1 0 0	1 0 0
Special country lots, if any	—	- - -	—	—						
BURRA—										
Town lots	—	- - -	—	—						
Suburban lots	—	- - -	—	—						
Country lots	34	4,721 0 0	—	—	34	139 0 28	4,721 0 0	1 0 0 3/10	1 0 0	1 0 0
Special country lots, if any	—	- - -	—	—						
FROME—										
Town lots	—	- - -	—	—						
Suburban lots	—	- - -	—	—						
Country lots	—	- - -	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Special country lots, if any	—	- - -	—	—						
NOT NAMED—										
Town lots	7	3 2 0	—	—						20 0 0
Suburban lots	—	- - -	—	—						—
Country lots	2	173 0 0	—	—	14	13 0 11	184 0 20	1 1 9 6/10	1 7 9 3/10	1 0 0
Special country lots, if any	5	7 2 20	—	—						—
TOTAL—										
Town lots	188	77 1 29	—	—	188	- -	77 1 29	—	—	—
Suburban lots	300	10,464 0 0	4	2,238	304	- -	12,702 0 0	—	—	—
Country lots	1523	149,641 0 0	93	50,076	1,616	- -	199,717 0 0	—	—	—
Special country lots, if any	7	1,078 2 20	1	350	8	- -	1,428 2 20	—	—	—
Grand Totals	2018	161,261 0 9	98	52,664	2,116	- -	213,925 0 9	- -	- -	- -

March 21, 1859.

Year ended the 31st December 1854.

Price at which it sold.			Total amount of purchase money.					Mode of appropriation.	Remarks.
Price per acre, if fixed.	Average price per acre, if sold by auction.	Price per acre of blocks sold by contract.	Total amount of the purchase money.	Proportion of purchase money received in the colony.	Total amount of remissions allowed in the purchase of land.	Amount of credit allowed under certificates from Her Majesty's Colonial Land and Emigration Commissioners.	Amount remaining due.	State the purpose to which the sums received for land have been applied.	
£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s.	£ s.	£		
1 0 0	2 4 $7\frac{8}{10}$	1 17 $9\frac{1}{10}$	76,771 10 0	76,411 10 0	260 0	100 0	–		
1 0 0	1 16 $3\frac{1}{10}$	1 4 $3\frac{3}{10}$	38,554 5 0	38,554 5 0	—	—	–		
1 0 0	1 5 $1\frac{2}{10}$	1 0 0	24,000 15 0	23,281 12 0	- -	719 3	–		
1 0 0	1 19 $5\frac{5}{10}$	1 0 0	3,215 0 0	3,215 0 0	—	—	–		
1 0 0	1 17 $3\frac{7}{10}$	1 1 $6\frac{8}{10}$	119,313 9 0	119,313 9 0	—	—	–		
1 0 0	1 12 $11\frac{3}{10}$	0 19 $10\frac{2}{10}$	9,195 1 0	9,195 1 0	—	—	–		
1 0 0	1 17 $8\frac{4}{10}$	1 5 $0\frac{4}{10}$	47,937 2 0	47,937 2 0	—	—	–		
1 0 0	2 2 $10\frac{3}{10}$	1 6 $8\frac{6}{10}$	48,207 13 0	48,207 13 0	—	—	–		
1 0 0	1 17 0	- -	1,180 5 0	1,180 5 0	—	—	–		
1 0 0	1 0 $6\frac{4}{10}$	1 0 0	317 0 0	317 0 0	—	—	–		
1 0 0	1 8 $0\frac{8}{10}$	1 0 0	2,669 10 0	2,669 10 0	—	—	–		
1 0 0	1 3 5	1 0 0	4,814 15 0	4,814 15 0	—	—	–		
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	–		
1 0 0	79 14 $8\frac{4}{10}$	1 7 $9\frac{3}{10}$	1,127 6 3	1,127 6 3	—	—	–		
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	–		
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	–		
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	–		
- -	- -	- -	377,303 11 3	376,224 8 3	260 0	819 3	–		

Sales by Public Auction.

1854:	A.	R.	P.	£	s.	d.
January	10,026	2	9	19,130	15	0
February	12,186	2	11	21,214	10	0
March	12,993	0	20	23,150	11	3
April	12,126	3	0	24,618	15	0
May	12,759	1	0	28,722	5	0
June	37,299	1	0	76,978	10	0
July	13,598	0	6	25,979	15	0
August	11,543	2	0	21,704	5	0
September	17,143	3	5	32,190	15	0
October	11,482	0	0	20,710	0	0
November	8,184	3	38	18,923	15	0
December	14,630	1	0	20,004	0	0
Total	173,974	0	9	333,327	16	3

Sales by Private Contract.

1854:	A.	£	s.
January	6,521	6,659	0
February	3,925	4,100	18
March	6,829	7,125	6
April	4,315	4,703	17
May	5,356	5,510	16
June	2,878	3,114	6
July	3,469	4,093	18
August	1,835	2,074	15
September	1,687	1,712	6
October	517	532	7
November	1,383	2,770	0
December	1,236	1,578	0
Total	39,951	43,975	15

The difference between the amount realized and the number of acres in the sales by private contract, is explained by the deposits having been forfeited upon several sections run up at auction considerably above the upset price, the purchaser in which case does not obtain the section at one pound per acre, but completes the purchase of the person forfeiting by paying the balance of the amount bid.

(Certified correct) A. H. Freeling, Capt. R.E., Surveyor-General.

RETURN of LAND reserved or purchased for Public Uses, or granted without Purchase, and Miscellaneous Information respecting Crown Lands, for the Year ended the 31st December 1854.

County or District.	Land reserved for public uses.		Land purchased for public uses.			Free grants (if any).			MISCELLANEOUS.															Remarks.
									Remissions in purchase of land.				Certificates from Her Majesty's Colonial Land and Emigration Commissioners.				State the particulars of any tax on cultivated or uncultivated land, by what authority levied, and the amount received in the year.	Amount remaining due for the past year.	Amount remaining due for previous years.	Amount of waste land alienated.	Estimated amount of waste land remaining.	Estimated proportion of waste land available for settlement.	Total number of acres of waste land surveyed and open for settlement at the present date.	
	Extent of the reserve in acres.	Object of the reserve.	Extent of the purchase in acres.	Cost.	Object of the purchase.	Grantee's name.	Number of acres.	For what reason made.	To officers of the army and navy.	To officers of the E. I. Company's service.	Amount of other remission (if any), and state for what reason made.	State the names and description of all parties to whom remission has been granted.	No. of certificate.	Date exercised.	Amount of deposit.	Extent to which certificate has been used.								
	A.		A. R. P.	£ s. d.					£	£						£		£ s.	£ s.					
Adelaide	–	Roads, water, quarries, and other reserves.	62 3 4	2,499 6 2	Lunatic Asylum.	–	–	–	200	–	–	Camillo de Montebello Drew, late Lieut. in Her Majesty's 24th Regiment of Foot	25	July	–	100				1,217,323 acres.	196,968,979 acres.	Uncertain.	139,969 acres, inclusive of roads, which average about $\frac{1}{17}$th of lands surveyed.	
													–	Aug.	–	200								
Hindmarsh	–		9 3 0	100 0 0	Goolwa railway.				400	–	–	*John Ross, late Captain unattached	–	Aug.	–	60	– – –	340 0						
Stanley	–		– –	– – –	– –	–	–	–	–	–	–	– – –	24	Feb.	–	500 0								
Gawler													26	July	–	219 12	– – –	280 8						
Light	9,367		0 1 4	0 5 0	Police Station.	–	–	–	–	–	–	– – –	21	–	–	–	– – –	–	†69 0					
Eyre																								
Sturt																								
Grey																								
Robe																								
Russell																								
Flinders																								
Burra																								
Frome																								
Grand Total	9,367	–	72 3 8	2,599 11 2	– –	–	–	–	600	–	– –	– – –	–	–	–	1,079 12	– – –	620 8	69 0					

* John Ross, up to 29th November 1850, was Lieut. in 1st West India Regiment from November 1850 to September 1853; he was Captain unattached when he sold out, being an officer of 39¼ years standing.

† This balance has been tendered in part payment of a section in the county of Light, but has not been accepted in consequence of a doubt as to the power of the agent to make use of it without special power; it is therefore held over until such authority can be received from Miss Lloyd, in whose favour the order was issued.

March 21, 1855.

(Certified correct) A. H. FREELING, Capt. R.E., Surveyor-General.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA.

BLUE BOOK RETURN, 1854.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA.

BLUE BOOK RETURN, 1854.

County.	Number of Grants not exceeding 80 Acres.		Number of Grants above 80 and not exceeding 500 Acres.		Grants exceeding 500 Acres.		
	No. of Grants.	No. of Acres.	No. of Grants.	No. of Acres.		Name of Grantee.	Extent of Grant.
		A. R. P.					
Adelaide -	371	12,144 3 0	164	22,009	5	R. D. Hanson - -	548
						J. Baker - -	624
						J. A. B. Gebert -	534
						A. Hardy - -	563
						W. Hill - -	582
Hindmarsh -	241	10,956 0 29	91	9,216	7	E. C. Gwynne -	502
						W. J. Parker - -	580
						R. Norman - -	507
						Ditto - -	517
						M'Kenzie and Wood -	630
						E. Stephens - -	516
						G. Jaensch - -	567
Stanley - -	91	4,084 0 0	91	12,328	7	R. Thomas - -	640
						P. D. Prankerd -	620
						Wm. Robinson - -	637
						Ditto - -	555
						Ditto - -	569
						Ditto - -	635
						Ditto - -	636
Gawler - -	14	1,120 0 0	5	740		Chas. Fenn - -	570
						J. Masters - -	630
						G. Morphett - -	640
						G. F. Angas - -	576
						Ditto - -	554
						F. W. Reiss - -	584
						Powell and Cullen -	603
						George Morphett -	640
						George Elder -	630
						S. King - -	536
						S. A. T. Von Bertouch	540
						J. Bouch - -	628
Light - -	181	12,804 0 0	249	36,538	29	G. F. Angas - -	640
						R. Bosworth - -	615
						South Australian Co. -	541
						A. Hay - - -	611
Eyre - -	47	3,398 0 0	29	3,471		T. and J. Reid - -	638
						South Australian Co. -	540
						Ditto - -	582
						W. Pfeiffer - -	626
						South Australian Co. -	600
						E. Cain - - -	615
						E. Wright - -	533
						C. A. H. W. Arend -	578
						Prankerd and Stuckey	550
						N. Malcolm - -	638
						George Green -	640
						W. Peacock - -	595
						A. Buchannan -	638
Sturt - -	93	6,184 0 0	108	17,561	4	Smallacombe and Hay	636
						George Morphett -	628
						N. Gregory & J. Downing - - -	501
						W. Nickels - -	552
Grey - -	154	6,458 0 0	66	8,842	12	David Power -	637
						Ditto - -	640
						Ditto - -	640
						Ditto - -	640
						Ditto - -	640
						Ditto - -	640
						Ditto - -	502
						Ditto - -	640
						Ditto - -	640
						J. Scott - -	640
						Leake Brothers -	617
						Ditto - -	640
Robe - -	9	82 0 0	4	556	-	- -	- -
Russell - -	4	315 0 0	- -	- -	-	- -	- -
Flinders -	17	1,358 0 0	8	749	-	- -	- -
Burra - -	18	1,225 0 0	35	3,496	-	- -	- -
Frome - -	- -	- - -	- -	- -	-	- -	- -
Not named -	13	74 0 20	1	110	-	- -	- -
Totals -	1,253	60,203 0 9	851	115,616	64		38,106

March 21, 1855.

STATE OF HER MAJESTY'S COLONIAL POSSESSIONS. 263

BLUE BOOK RETURN, 1854.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA.

Total number of Grants.	Total number of Acres granted.	Whether by Grant or Purchase.	Where sold, average price per Acre.	State total number of Acres granted in colony.	State total number of Acres sold.	State total number of Acres that remain ungranted.
	A. R. P.		£ s. d.			
540	37,004 3 0	Purchase	Auction - 2 4 $7\frac{8}{10}$ Fixed - 1 17 $9\frac{1}{10}$			
339	23,991 0 29	„	Auction - 1 16 $3\frac{1}{10}$ Fixed - 1 4 $3\frac{3}{10}$			
189	20,704 0 0	„	Auction - 1 5 $1\frac{2}{10}$ Fixed - 1 0 0			
19	1,860 0 0	„	Auction - 1 19 $1\frac{5}{10}$ Fixed - 1 0 0			
459	66,653 0 0	„	Auction - 1 17 $3\frac{7}{10}$ Fixed - 1 1 $6\frac{8}{10}$			
76	6,869 0 0	„	Auction - 1 12 $11\frac{3}{10}$ Fixed - 0 19 $10\frac{2}{10}$			
				1,217,323	1,217,323	196,968,979
205	26,062 0 0	„	Auction - 1 17 $8\frac{1}{10}$ Fixed - 1 5 $0\frac{1}{10}$			
232	22,816 0 0	„	Auction - 2 2 $11\frac{2}{10}$ Fixed - 1 6 $8\frac{6}{10}$			
13	638 0 0	„	Auction - 1 17 0 Fixed -			
4	315 0 0	„	Auction - 1 0 $6\frac{4}{10}$ Fixed - 1 0 0			
25	2,107 0 0	„	Auction - 1 8 $0\frac{8}{10}$ Fixed - 1 0 0			
53	4,721 0 0	„	Auction - 1 3 5 Fixed - 1 0 0			
-	- - -	„	Auction - Fixed -			
14	184 0 20	„	Auction - 79 14 $8\frac{4}{10}$ Fixed - 1 7 $9\frac{3}{10}$			
2,168	213,925 0 9	„	By auction 1 18 $3\frac{8}{10}$ Fixed - 1 $0\frac{3}{10}$			

A. H. FREELING, Capt. R.E.,
Surveyor-General.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA.

Encl. in No. 34.

Enclosure in No. 34.

SURVEY.—SOUTH AUSTRALIA.

GENERAL REPORT accompanying RETURNS for 1854.

Surveyor-General's Office, February 28, 1855.

Land Department.

IN the general report which accompanied the various survey returns for 1853, I had occasion to remark upon the extraordinary quantity of Crown lands sold by the department in excess of the sales of previous years; from the continued drought during the past season I anticipated an important decrease in the demand for land. I have the gratification to report, however, that during 1854 the department sold 213,925A. 0R. 9P., being an increase over the sales of 1853 of 603A. 3R. 5P., over those of 1852 of 127,252 acres, and over those of 1851 of 131,335 acres; at the same time the department laboured at a disadvantage, in having two of its surveyors engaged, by especial authority, on the banks of the river Murray, where 25,002 acres were surveyed, of which but 554 acres were sold of the 11,946 acres offered at public auction. Had these parties been employed in the more settled districts, I have little doubt the sales for the year would have been considerably augmented.

Progress of Field Work.

To meet the continued demand for the survey of lands, the field parties have been increased in number, and additional assistance obtained in the office; by these means 313,949 acres were surveyed in 1854, of which 277,487 acres were new surveys, laid out for sale in sections varying in size from the maximum of 640 acres to town allotments of $\frac{1}{4}$ acre. 8,830 acres are new roads; 26,580 acres are re-surveys of old sections; 537 acres are old roads; and 745 acres are reserves for water, stone, and other purposes.

Expenses of Field Work.

The actual cost of the above, with every expense contingent thereupon, such as the regimental and working pay, gratuity and allowance of the detachment of Royal Sappers and Miners, salaries of temporary surveyors, wages of bullock-drivers and labourers, maintenance and repair of camp equipage, surveying instruments, transport, and supplying casualties in the field, is 9,165*l.* 18*s.* 4*d.*, nearly three times the amount expended in 1853, and making the cost of the field work 7*d.* per acre, or $2\frac{60}{100}d.$ in excess of that of last year. That this extra cost is incurred by the additional pay given to the civil surveyors is shown by the fact, that whilst the yearly pay of ten surveyors of the detachment of Royal Sappers and Miners amounted to 1,062*l.* 19*s.* 3*d.*, that of the six civil surveyors amounted to 2,073*l.* 4*s.* 11*d.*, or nearly double, their work at the same time being little more than one-third of the total quantity surveyed during the year.

Expense of Survey Department.

The whole expense of the department for the year is 12,953*l.* 1*s.* 3*d.*, showing the cost of superintendence, field-work, mapping, compilation of weekly land sale lists, monthly and quarterly returns of lands sold at public auction and by private contract, the preparation of 2,425 land grants, attendance on the public for elucidation of plans and for general information concerning the survey and sale of lands, to be $9\frac{90}{100}d.$, or $\frac{98}{100}$ths of a penny in excess of the total average per acre of 1853, whilst 147,894 acres were surveyed in 1854 in excess of that surveyed during the preceding year. It affords me pleasure to be able to report so favourably the result of the field work and general expenses of the department as compared with those of previous years. It must be borne in mind, however, that the expense of the office superintendence may generally be expected to decrease as the amount of work performed in the field increases.

Hundreds and Counties.

No additional hundreds or counties have been proclaimed during the year.

New Townships.

Two new townships have been laid out, one at the north-west angle of the county of Frome, on the eastern shores of Spencer's Gulf, called the township of "Port Augusta," and one near Tod's Hill, on the north-west shores of Lake Alexandrina, called the township of "Milang," the former of which is of daily increasing importance as a place of shipment to the northern settlers.

Trigonometrical Surveys.

In consequence of the great demand for the survey of lands, the trigonometrical survey has not been extended during the year.

Survey of Roads.

About 1,200 miles of roads have been surveyed during the year, of which 1,104 are new, 68 old, and the remaining 28 miles are leading lines through unsurveyed lands. The utmost attention is being given by the department to this branch, an officer being specially engaged defining main lines through unsold lands to the various localities where traffic is likely to occur.

Visits of Inspection.

In addition to the ordinary visits to the various survey parties, I proceeded during the year to the river Murray to examine the land in that locality, and to ascertain the best sites for landing-places, fords, and townships, also with the view to take advantage of the sinuosities of the streams, and at the same time to preserve a regular character of survey.

I also proceeded to Kangaroo Island and Yorke's Peninsula, to examine the locality selected on behalf of several unexercised land orders, and, if necessary, to make reserves for the purposes of the Government.

I also examined the eastern shores of Spencer's Gulf, and selected a site for the township and port, now known as the "Township of Port Augusta," several wharf frontages of which, when offered to public competition, realized upwards of 250*l.* per acre.

The lands (referred to in my General Report for 1853) in the south-eastern districts were offered for sale at public auction in July last, when 23,000 acres realized upwards of 45,000*l.*

Sales by Public Auction and Private Contract.

There were sold in 1854, by public auction, 173,974A. 0R. 9P. at an average of 1*l.* 18*s.* $3\frac{8}{10}$*d.* per acre, or 333,327*l.* 16*s.* 3*d.*; by private contract, 39,951 acres at an average of 1*l.* 2*s.* $0\frac{1}{10}$*d.* per acre, or 43,975*l.* 15*s.*, making a total of 377,303*l.* 11*s.* 3*d.*, being the largest amount yet realized in one year from the sale of Crown lands.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. FREELING,
Capt. R.E.,
Surveyor-General.

The Acting Colonial Secretary,
&c. &c.

RETURN relative to Surveyors and Survey

SURVEYORS.

Names of persons belonging to the survey department.	Description.	Date of Appointment.	By whom appointed.	Salaries.	Allowances.	REMARKS.
				£ s. d.	£ s. d.	
Captain A. H. Freeling, R.E.	Surveyor-General	Feb. 20, 1849	Secretary of State	700 0 0 *240 0 0	91 5 0	Gratuities marked with a cross, thus *
John MacLaren	Deputy Surveyor-General: title altered to 1st Assistant to Surveyor-General, September 15, 1854.	Feb. 13, 1847	Lieutenant Governor to be appointed by Secretary of State.	33 6 8 16 13 4	4 11 0*a*	*a* On leave of absence from 1st Feb. for 18 months.
G. W. Goyder	Second Assistant to Surveyor-General, at 300*l.* per annum.	Sept. 13, 1854	Sir H. E. F. Young, Lieut.-Governor.	289 10 3 144 15 1	—	
Robert Gardiner	Senior Surveyor and Draftsman, at 225*l.* per annum.	Feb. 11, 1854	Ditto	199 11 1 99 15 6	—	
Edward William Pitts	First-class Clerk, at 225*l.* per annum.	Sept. 13, 1854	Ditto	186 2 11 93 1 5	—	
C. M. Doswell	Second-class Clerk, at 160*l.* per annum.	Sept. 13, 1854	Ditto	102 19 5 51 9 8½	—	
J. M. Allen	Third-class Clerk, at 100*l.* per annum.	Sept. 13, 1854	Ditto	29 14 5 14 17 2½	—	
Thomas Lyons	Temporary Clerk and Draftsman, at 150*l.* per annum.	Sept. 13, 1854	Ditto	44 11 8 22 5 10		
				2,268 14 6		
Royal Sappers and Miners.						
Sergeant Joseph Moore Private James Brooks Private James Elder Five Non-commissioned Officers and Privates occasionally employed.	Draftsmen		Master-General of the Ordnance.	317 18 3 151 18 8	91 4 9	
L.-Corporal James Partridge.	Clerk		Ditto	- - -		
				469 16 11	187 0 9	
Corporal Wm. Crocker L.-Corporal Richard Loveday. L.-Corporal William Dawson. L.-Corporal Florence Darling. L.-Corporal William Harris. L.-Corporal Richard Brooking. Private Wm. Farquhar Private Thomas Evans Private George Moore Private Michael O'Reilly	Surveyors		Ditto	588 12 9 294 5 0	180 1 6	
William Pearson Moses Pearson John Dickson John M. Painter A. G. Ball Henry Ide	Temporary Surveyors, at salaries of 300*l.* per annum each.		Sir H. E. F. Young, Lieut.-Governor.	300 0 0 133 16 4 128 4 6 81 13 4 60 9 8 225 0 0	24 12 6 11 8 5 11 4 2 7 2 9 5 5 8 21 8 4	
				1,812 1 7	261 13 4	
Civil Labourers	- - - - -	- - -	- - - -	- - -	- - -	- - -
Superintending the construction of Road at Horrock's Pass		- - -	- - - -	- - -	- - -	- - -
Thomas F. Nott	Temporary Surveyor, at 400*l.* per annum.	- - -	- - - -	179 14 2		
Grand Total	- - - -	- - -	- - - -	2,461 12 8	448 4 1	- - -

February 27, 1855.

for the Year ending 31st December 1854.

SURVEYS.

State the number of labourers employed in the survey department during the past year.	State the gross amount paid to them as wages.	Fixed expenditure of the survey department.	Contingent expenditure of the same.	Total expenditure during the year.	State what amount of this expenditure was defrayed out of the revenue from land.	If defrayed from any other source state the source and amount.	State the quantity of land surveyed in the course of the past year.	State the average cost per acre of surveys during the past year.	State the quantity (if any) of land surveyed, but not by government surveyor.	Remarks.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.		£ s. d.		
		2,268 14 6	881 10 9	3,787 2 11						
			2,543 5 7				277,487	- -	- -	Sections surveyed.
							8,830	- -	- -	Roads ,,
							745	- -	- -	Reserves ,,
							26,350	- -	- -	Sections re-surveyed.
							537	- -	- -	Roads ,,
50 to 60	4,549 7 10	- - -	2,543 5 7	9,165 18 4			313,949	7d.		
- -	- - -	- - -	- - -	179 14 2						
- -	4,549 7 10	2,268 14 6	3,424 16 4	13,132 15 5						

A. H. Freeling, Capt. R.E., Surveyor-General.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA.

ACTS OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA, 1854.

No. 1.—To amend "An Act to provide for the regulation and licensing of Public Conveyances, and to prevent the wanton ill-treatment of Horses and Cattle."
[Assented to, September 14, 1854.]

No. 2.—To organize and establish a Volunteer Military Force in South Australia.
[Assented to, September 14, 1854.]

No. 3.—To repeal "An Act to provide for the Commutation of Sentences of Transportation, and to substitute Imprisonment with Hard Labour as a Punishment in lieu of Transportation, and for the employment of Prisoners sentenced to Hard Labour," and to substitute other provisions in lieu thereof. [Assented to, October 9, 1854.]

No. 4.—For the further appropriation of the Revenue for the year one thousand eight hundred and fifty-four, and for the general appropriation of the Revenue for the year one thousand eight hundred and fifty-five. [Assented to, November 4, 1854.]

No. 5.—To facilitate the dissolution, and provide for winding up the affairs of, Joint Stock Companies. [Assented to, November 13, 1854.]

No. 6.—To authorize the sale, or mortgage, or letting of the Estates of Persons found lunatic, and for other purposes therein mentioned. [Assented to, November 18, 1854.]

No. 7.—To promote the establishment of direct Monthly Communication with England.
[Assented to, November 18, 1854.]

No. 8.—To amend "An Ordinance to regulate Trials by Jury in South Australia."
[Assented to, November 18, 1854.]

No. 9.—To organize and establish a Militia Force in South Australia.
[Assented to, December 4, 1854.]

No. 10.—To amend the Criminal Law. [Assented to, December 4, 1854.]

No. 11.—An Act to amend the Law for the Registration of Persons entitled to vote at Elections for Members of the Legislative Council. [Assented to, December 4, 1854.]

No. 12.—To appropriate the sum of One Thousand Pounds as an addition to the salary of the Lieutenant-Governor for the year one thousand eight hundred and fifty-five.
[Reserved, December 15, 1854.]

No. 13.—For ascertaining the number of Inhabitants of the Province of South Australia in the year one thousand eight hundred and fifty-five.
[Assented to, December 15, 1854.]

No. 14.—To make provision against the danger of Bush and other Fires.
[Assented to, December 15, 1854.]

No. 15.—To amend "An Act to extend and make compulsory the practice of Vaccination." [Assented to, December 15, 1854.]

No. 16.—To amend "An Act to appoint District Councils, and to define the Powers thereof." [Assented to, December 15, 1854.]

No. 17.—To enlarge the time within which Sheep infected with the Scab may be destroyed. [Assented to, December 15, 1854.]

No. 18.—To authorize the formation of the Adelaide and Gawler Town Railway, and to provide for raising the money required for that purpose.
[Assented to, December 15, 1854.]

No. 19.—To amend the Law relating to the Registration, Enrolment, and Deposit of Wills, and other Deeds and Instruments. [Assented to, December 15, 1854.]

No. 20.—To authorize the raising a sum of One Hundred Thousand Pounds for the deepening and improvement of the Harbour of Port Adelaide, and for other the purposes therein named. [Assented to, December 16, 1854.]

No. 21.—To provide for the retirement of Officers in the Civil Service.
[Assented to, December 16, 1854.]

No. 22.—To amend an Ordinance "to establish a Ferry at Wellington, on the River Murray." [Assented to, December 16, 1854.]

No. 23.—To alter and repeal certain Laws relating to the Corporation of the City of Adelaide, and to make further and other provisions in lieu thereof, and to confer further powers on the said Corporation, and on the Council for the time being of the said City.
[Assented to, December 16, 1854.]

No. 24.—To amend the Laws of the Customs in South Australia.
[Assented to, December 16, 1854.]

WESTERN AUSTRALIA.

No. 35.

Copy of a DESPATCH from Governor Fitzgerald to the Right Hon. Sir George Grey, Bart.

(No. 53.)

Government House, Perth, May 3, 1855.

Sir, (Received Sept. 6, 1855.)

I do myself the honour to transmit, in accordance with the prescribed regulation in that behalf, the "Blue Book" for the year 1854, accompanied by certain statistical tables, compiled in the present simple form for the first time in this colony.

2. I can with much confidence refer you to these returns as the result of information obtained in taking the general census of population with other necessary statistics in the last year, which I have reason to believe has been done with more than usual accuracy and care. The tables, numbered from 7 to 14, give a consecutive comparison of the state and condition of this colony for the last six years, in every element of its progress or otherwise, commencing with that of 1848, the year when I assumed the administration of the government of this province.

3. I have much pleasure in drawing your attention to the satisfactory showing of this comparison, from which it appears that population has considerably more than doubled itself in the six years, notwithstanding the large numbers who have emigrated to the neighbouring colonies, attracted by the allurements of the gold fields.

4. The amount of land brought into cultivation, and the consequent increased production of cereal with other crops thrown into the market, show nearly double that in the period under comparison.

5. Stock, notwithstanding the very much greater consumption from the increase of population, has, with the exception of sheep, nearly doubled, thus proving the groundlessness of the alarm that at one time generally prevailed of the incapability of the colony to meet the increased demand that must follow the introduction of convicts, pensioners with their families, and free emigration, consequent on Western Australia being made a penal settlement.

6. The revenue, notwithstanding this encouraging progress in every branch, did not exceed that of the year 1853 by more than 5,000*l.*, being only 34,161*l.* in comparison with 29,166*l.* This small increase, so much below anticipation, I attribute firstly to the very deficient harvest of the previous year, 1853, calling for the withdrawal from the colony of a very large amount of capital for the purchase and introduction of large supplies of breadstuffs to meet the wants of the community. Secondly, to the introduction in the year under consideration of a very liberal tariff as regards the amount of goods admitted free, while the other portion of the same, establishing differential duties, which was fully expected to more than realize the loss sustained by the large admission of free goods, can be scarcely said to have come into fair operation, as the commercial body, aware of the change of tariff contemplated by the Government, availed of the opportunity of taking out of bond under the old law, at an ad valorem duty of 5 per cent., such goods as they knew would under the new law be charged with differential duties, their gain became consequently proportionate to the loss sustained by the revenue.

7. The shipping inwards, as a matter of course, has increased largely, from the large imports previously alluded to, as also from the increased export, as compared with the previous years; and here, though reporting on the year 1854, I cannot deny myself the pleasure of stating that the export in the present year of timber alone to the other colonies, promises to exceed in amount the aggregate of all combined in any previous year.

8. But the most gratifying result of all is the general disposition to invest capital in the purchase of land, which has been done in the last year to a greater extent than before known since the occupation of the territory. This result is beyond question the soundest test of the confidence entertained by the majority

WESTERN AUSTRALIA.

of the community in the progress and stability of the colony; and the more valuable, as on the first discovery of gold at Melbourne, the prediction gained considerable ground that Western Australia would ere long be left to merely a band of officials.

9. The ordinances passed in the last year, nineteen in number, many of them of a very important character, have been fully explained in my Despatch No. 108, of September 18, 1854.

Taxation.

10. The changes effected in this branch of colonial policy in the last year has in like manner been submitted in the same Despatch, while explaining the changes contemplated by the new tariff.

11. In minerals little has been done, notwithstanding the valuable mineral wealth beyond a doubt existing in the Victoria District. The want of capital to continue the working of the Geraldine mine is much to be deplored, especially looking at the high price realized for the last 50 tons, of 34*l.* per ton, lately exported. I can have little doubt, with different management and enlarged capital, the district would prove a source of unbounded wealth to all engaged in exports, which it will yet do beyond doubt.

Public Works.

12. I am able to report the Government have not been idle during the past year. The new colonial hospital is now nearly ready for occupation. Small gaols are in progress in all the rural districts, while a large one capable of holding more than 100 persons is also progressing in Perth. Churches, I am glad to say, as well as glebe houses, are making their appearance in the rural districts.

Education.

13. I am happy to say education has had the deepest consideration, with a view to the establishment of a higher course of education than existed formerly. Much credit is due to the colonial secretary as chairman to the Education Board, for his exertions in maturing the scheme. It must, however, be admitted there are many, both in and out of the council, that think the course of education much too high for the classes that usually attend government schools; more particularly in the Australian colonies, where they are not permitted to remain at school beyond the age of 14 or 15 at the utmost before being called upon to follow some occupation. The sum appropriated for this service has also been thought excessive, looking at the limited resources of the colony. I am bound to declare my concurrence in the present scheme as a matter of experiment, which if it fail is easy of discontinuance. I do myself the honour to transmit the last report of the board.

14. Writing from a penal settlement in which my administration is about to close, it will naturally be expected I should not conclude these observations without touching upon its social state, as regards the security of life and property, and the extent to which all classes submit themselves to the observance of order and obedience to law.

15. There are now some 3,000 convicts scattered throughout the community of this colony, and such is the peaceful reality prevailing, accompanied by the full exercise of the social obligations of civilized life, that a stranger travelling through the colony would never feel himself in a penal settlement other than by the mere circumstance of meeting parties peaceably engaged in repairing roads, or executing public works of utility, and I may affirm that life and property is felt to be equally as secure here as in any other portion of the British empire, from the general obedience to the law. Crime will occur in all countries, but I feel bound to declare in justice both to the magistracy and police of this colony, that its commission here is almost invariably followed by detection and punishment.

I have, &c.
(Signed) CHARLES FITZGERALD.

The Right Hon. Sir George Grey, Bart.,
&c. &c. &c.

Enclosure 1 in No. 35.

Encl. 1. in No. 35.

STATISTICS OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA.

Registrar General's Office,
Perth, December 16, 1854.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith the statistical returns, compiled from the census taken by direction of his Excellency the Governor on the 30th September last.

For various reasons I have been unable to put his Excellency in possession of these returns until the present time; but the principal causes of delay are attributable to the novel forms adopted, the new mode used for the distribution and collection of the individual returns, and the numerical increase of population which has taken place since the census of 1848.

An undertaking of this nature, to be performed in an accurate manner, is at all times, and in all countries one of great difficulty, from the unwillingness of individuals to furnish information relative to their private affairs, which many in ignorance attribute to mere inquisitiveness on the part of those appointed to collect such information, forgetting that it is impossible for a Government to legislate on many matters, affecting the weal of the whole community, unless they have certain statistical data to guide their deliberations. If these difficulties, then, exist in countries where the machinery employed is elaborate, and no consideration of expense is allowed to interfere, his Excellency will not be surprised when I state that such difficulties are increased tenfold in a colony like Western Australia, where a limited population is scattered over an extent of country, (equalling in area the whole of England and Wales) and where the only means of collecting information has been, in this instance, through the medium of the police, who, notwithstanding every desire to perform the service efficiently, were unable, in consequence of other duties clashing with that of which I now treat, to ensure in many respects that accuracy so desirable in returns of this nature.

Owing to all these causes, it will not be a matter of astonishment that the present census does not give such exact information as could be wished; but, notwithstanding the many circumstances which have militated against this desideratum, I have every reason to believe that a very close approximation to the actual condition of the colony has been arrived at, and much valuable information gleaned. In any succeeding census which the Governor may think proper to order, I hope, with the experience already gained, to submit to his Excellency such a plan for its collection as will ensure the greatest exactitude on all points worthy of note.

The 1st table to which I shall draw his Excellency's attention is the return of the whole population, compared with that of 1848, showing an increase, in the gross, over that year of 7,354, or 159·11 per cent. The primary cause of this addition to our numbers is the conversion of the colony into a penal settlement; but, apart from the immigration consequent on this change, the addition to the free population is in itself considerable, and gives an actual increase over that of 1848 of 3,154, or 70·71 per cent.

The 2d table merely exhibits the comparative increase during the period above alluded to.

Return No. 3 shows the distribution of the population throughout the different districts of the colony.

No. 4 is a synopsis of such population classifying the sexes.

No. 5 furnishes a summary of the whole, classified according to age, condition, religion, and occupation; and also embracing the cereal and other productions of the colony, the number of stock, and the quantity of land under fallow.

In this return the only point on which I shall remark is, the increased number of acres in cultivation over the past year, with reference to its probable supplies of food.

The crop of wheat this year is returned at 5,969½ acres. As the growth of the staple article of food is one of great importance, and on the adequate or inadequate production of which the prosperity of a colony situated like ours must mainly depend, I hope I shall not be deemed prolix in entering into a rough calculation as to our means for supplying from this year's harvest the quantity of flour necessary for the consumption of the ensuing year.

Assuming then, as the basis of this calculation, that 8 bushels of wheat are required for every man, woman, and child in the colony, we find that 95,808 bushels are necessary for the support of our present population. Supposing, however, that such population increases next year in the same ratio as it has since 1853, a further number will require to be provided for amounting to 2,642; or taking the mean of such increase, an additional supply of 10,568 bushels of wheat will be required for their support.

The quantity of land under wheat, at an average of 15 bushels to the acre, will yield in round numbers 89,950 bushels; but from this must be deducted the supply of seed for the next year's sowing, when I have assumed the number of acres ready for cultivation (taking into account the land under fallow) at 7,000, which, at two bushels per acre, will require 14,000 bushels for seed alone, this leaves a balance of 75,550 available for consumption, or 20,258 less than is required for our present population, and 30,826 bushels or 592½ tons of flour less than is calculated to meet our requirements during 1855.

Notwithstanding this deficiency, it must be a source of gratification to his Excellency to perceive the advance that has been made in agricultural operations during the last few

years. This is to be attributed to the certainty now existing of a ready sale for all agricultural products, whereas formerly, although a nominal value attached to them, no market, or at least a very limited one, was open for their disposal. Such an incentive to increased exertions has had a beneficial result in all parts of the colony, as a reference to table No. 10, exhibiting the progressive increase in the growth of all kinds of grain, hay, &c., since 1848, will fully prove.

Although I have no means of drawing a comparison between the productions of the vineyards for the present, with that of any preceding year, yet the return given of the number of gallons of wine made, and the quantity of fruit dried, is gratifying, as exhibiting the adaptability of our climate for Mediterranean products, and the saving to the colony by home production instead of importation.

All kinds of stock, with the exception of goats and swine, have been considerably augmented of late, and the increase shown in the return of sheep and cattle tends to a belief that, notwithstanding the additional consumers we have had thrown into the colony, no fears need be entertained of any deficiency occuring in the supply of animal food. This belief is strengthened and confirmed by the recent reduction in the price of meat.

The number of acres under fallow shows that more extended agricultural operations are contemplated next year; and the satisfactory results from this system of farming will no doubt lead to the clearing and fallowing of larger tracts, and in the course of a few years, I trust, enable Western Australia to add to her exports those of flour and grain.

The 6th table shows the centesimal proportions of the various subdivisions of the population with reference to the whole, and to this return I would most earnestly call the notice of the Governor, as exhibiting many startling and interesting facts, which are worthy attention from the Executive Government of this colony. The first and most important is the disproportion of the sexes. It will be perceived by reference to the return in question that there are 7,973 males and only 4,003 females, giving an excess of the former over the latter of 3,970.

It is unnecessary for me to point out the moral evils likely to ensue from this inequality; or to do more than allude to the crimes to which such disparity is likely to give rise; but, as a means of averting the probability even of any such occurrences in this colony, I would respectfully suggest, that free female immigration should be encouraged to a greater extent than hitherto, in order to adjust the balance between the two sexes.

A singular result appears with regard to the population under 12 years of age; by reference to the return it will be seen that the centesimal proportion of both sexes of this age, as compared with the whole population of the colony, is 23·19, or rather less than one fourth of our present population is composed of children, proving the comparative exemption of the colony from infantine diseases of a serious nature.

The disproportion between the sexes exists in the ages from 21 upwards, and this is beyond doubt attributable to the introduction of convicts, and from the number of adult male immigrants having been in excess of females, as in the return of those under 12, most of whom have, in all probability, been born in the colony, the disparity is reversed, and we have an excess of females over males amounting to 158.

The small number of conditionally pardoned men returned will doubtless create surprise, but taking into account the numerous departures of this class by almost every vessel, I have reason to believe the return is correct.

In the division "Married," an apparent discrepancy will be perceived, as the return gives an excess of 150 married males over married females. I can only account for this by supposing that the difference arises from numbers of ticket-of-leave men being married in England, but whose wives have not joined them in this colony.

The proportions of the various religious denominations, as compared with the whole population, have been calculated with much care; but, from the vague manner in which many of these returns were made there is reason to believe that the Wesleyan and Independent Dissenters have been returned short of their actual numbers. As, however, I could only be guided by the information before me, any inconvenience which may be sustained from such inaccuracy must be entirely attributable to the indifference or negligence of the members of those communions, in not distinctly recording their religious tenets. The number of Roman Catholics returned is correct.

I need not advert to the occupation column, as it speaks for itself; great difficulties are experienced in acquiring the information necessary for its compilation, and too much reliance must not be placed in the classification.

Nos. 7, 8, and 9 are returns of the births, marriages, and deaths, as registered since 1848.

It must be borne in mind in perusing these returns that the number of birth, marriages, and deaths for 1854 is calculated for the nine months ending 30th September last. The per-centage of births, as compared with the population, irrespective of ticket-of-leave holders on public works and prisoners, is 2·75. The per-centage of deaths for the same period is only 0·55, and affords satisfactory proof of the healthiness of climate the colony enjoys.

The remaining tables from No. 10 to 21 inclusive require no remarks from me; they all contribute to the fund of statistical information I have endeavoured to collect, and

exhibit beyond question a progressive improvement in all matters affecting the interest of the colony.

The undertaking has been one of a novel character to me, and I trust the result will be gratifying to his Excellency, whom I beg to congratulate on the improved state of Western Australia since the time of his assuming the reins of Government.

I have, &c.
(Signed) CHARLES SHOLL,
Registrar General.

RETURNS.

No. 1.

RETURN of POPULATION ascertained by the Census of 30th September 1854, as compared with the result of that of 1848.

Population on 10th October 1848 - - - -	4,622
Deduct military - - - - -	162
Total free population irrespective of imlitary	4,460
Free population on 30th September 1854, irrespective of the military and aborigines in private service - - - -	7,614
Showing an increase in 6 years of or 70·71 per cent.	3,154
Population on 10th October 1848, including all classes - -	4,622
Population on 30th September 1854, including all classes, bond as well as free - - - - - - -	11,976
Being an increase in the total population of or 159·11 per cent.	7,354

CHARLES SHOLL,
Registrar General.

No. 2.

COMPARATIVE ABSTRACT of the Returns of Population for the Years 1848–54 inclusive.

YEAR.	MALES.	FEMALES.	TOTAL.
1848 - - -	2,818	1,804	4,622
1849 - - -	2,685	1,960	4,645
1850 - - -	3,491	2,395	5,886
1851 - - -	4,062	2,599	6,661
1852 - - -	5,645	3,066	8,711
1853 - - -	5,727	3,607	9,334
1854 - - -	7,937	4,071	12,008

CHARLES SHOLL,
Registrar General.

No. 3.

DISTRIBUTIVE RETURN of the Population of Western Australia on the 30th September 1854.

—	Free.		Conditional-pardon Men.	Ticket-of-leave Holders.		Prisoners.		Total Males.	Total Females, including wives and daughters of Military.	Total Aborigines employed by white population.	Total Population.
	Civilians.	Military, including their male children.		In private employ.	On Public Works.	In Convict Establishments.	In Colonial Gaols.				
Perth and its suburbs	1,043	118	69	211	110	—	42	1,593	1,140	22	2,755
Fremantle „	698	284	35	162	97	495	13	1,784	975	14	2,773
Swan - - -	442	7	40	74	254	—	—	817	408	14	1,239
York - - -	499	21	47	170	88	—	5	830	371	38	1,239
Toodyay - - -	379	21	37	203	125	—	33	798	250	21	1,069
Murray - -	146	—	6	9	—	—	—	161	100	15	276
Wellington - -	331	11	27	152	101	—	2	624	283	36	943
Sussex - -	145	—	19	35	—	—	10	209	98	31	338
Plantagenet - -	290	34	62	158	128	—	11	683	266	28	977
Victoria - -	103	31	34	91	21	—	—	280	73	14	367
Totals - -	4,076	527	376	1,265	924	495	116	7,779	3,964	233	11,976

CHARLES SHOLL,
Registrar General.

No. 4.

Synopsis of the Population of Western Australia on the 30th September 1854.

	MALES.																FEMALES.						
	Free.						Conditional Pardon.					Ticket-of-Leave Holders.											
	Married.		Single.				Married.		Single.			Married.		Single.									
	Under 21.	21 and upwards.	Under 21.	Between 12 & 21.	21 and upwards.	Total Free.	Under 21.	21 and upwards.	Under 21.	21 and upwards.	Total C. P. Men.	Under 21.	21 and upwards.	Under 21.	21 and upwards.	Total Ticket-of-Leave Men.	Total Males.	Married.		Single.			Total Females.	Total Population.
																		Under 21.	21 and upwards.	Under 12.	Between 12 & 21.	21 and upwards.	
Perth and its suburbs -	–	301	373	157	212	1,043	—	22	6	41	69	—	25	—	186	211	1,323	30	349	359	187	159	1,084	2,407
Fremantle - - -	–	221	228	99	150	698	—	15	—	20	35	1	44	—	117	162	895	19	259	266	121	33	698	1,593
Swan - - -	2	134	10	135	161	442	—	14	—	26	40	1	12	2	59	74	556	87	82	145	67	26	405	961
York - - -	4	131	126	128	110	499	5	21	5	16	47	1	35	7	127	170	716	29	95	129	90	9	352	1,068
Toodyay - - -	1	90	106	48	134	379	—	2	—	35	37	—	31	3	169	203	619	13	81	94	31	15	234	853
Murray - - -	1	40	43	32	30	146	—	—	—	6	6	—	4	—	5	9	161	6	35	42	11	6	100	261
Wellington - -	1	106	121	48	55	331	—	9	2	16	27	—	18	2	132	152	510	20	98	113	31	14	276	786
Sussex - - -	–	42	42	16	45	145	—	2	1	16	19	—	1	3	31	35	199	8	30	32	23	5	98	297
Plantagenet - - -	–	95	76	49	70	290	—	12	4	46	62	5	28	3	122	158	510	11	89	95	34	9	238	748
Victoria - - -	–	29	23	16	35	103	—	2	1	31	34	—	9	—	82	91	228	3	23	19	3	5	53	281
Total - -	9	1,189	1,148	728	1,002	4,076	5	99	19	253	376	8	207	20	1,030	1,265	5,717	226	1,141	1,294	596	281	3,538	9,255
Add the military, their wives and families - -	–	238	162	25	102	527	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	527	—	238	174	14	—	426	953
Ticket-of-leave men on public works - - -	–	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	924	924	924	—	—	—	—	—	—	924
Prisoners in convict establishment and colonial gaols	–	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	610	—	—	—	—	1	1	611
Aborigines in the employ of white population -	–	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	195	—	—	—	—	—	38	233
Grand Total - -	9	1,427	1,310	753	1,104	4,603	5	99	19	253	376	8	207	20	1,954	2,189	7,973	226	1,379	1,468	610	282	4,003	11,976

Charles Sholl, Registrar General.

No. 5.

Showing the Population, Crop, and Stock in the various Districts of the Colony of Western Australia on the 30th September 1854.

Towns and Districts.	Population.																					Religion.											
	Free.										Holders of Conditional Pardons.				Holders of Ticket of Leave.				Aborigines in Service.		Total Population.	Free.						Bond.					
	Males.					Females.					Males.				Males.																		
	Married.		Single.			Married.		Single.			Married.		Single.		Married.		Single.																
	Under 21 years of age.	21 years and upwards.	Under 12 years.	Above 12 and under 21.	21 years and upwards.	Under 21 years.	21 years and upwards.	Under 12 years.	Above 12 and under 21.	21 years and upwards.	Under 21 years.	Above 21 years.	Under 21 years.	Above 21 years.	Under 21 years.	Above 21 years.	Under 21 years.	Above 21 years	Males.	Females.		Church of England.	Wesleyan Methodists.	Independents.	Other Protestant Dissenters.	Church of Rome.	Jews, Mahomedans, & others not specified.	Church of England.	Wesleyan Methodists.	Independents.	Other Protestant Dissenters.	Church of Rome.	Jews, Mahomedans, & others not specified
Perth and its suburbs -	—	301	373	157	212	30	349	359	187	159	—	22	6	41	—	25	—	186	15	7	2,429	1,225	317	81	139	410	46	131	25	—	10	45	—
Fremantle - -	—	221	228	99	150	19	259	266	121	33	—	15	—	20	1	44	—	117	12	2	1,607	966	52	82	105	238	32	106	—	3	3	20	—
Swan - - -	2	134	10	135	161	87	82	145	65	26	—	14	—	26	1	12	2	59	12	2	975	680	47	18	52	78	6	51	3	11	11	18	—
York - - -	4	131	126	128	110	29	95	129	90	9	5	21	5	16	1	35	7	127	36	2	1,106	676	83	—	11	81	38	110	5	—	5	54	43
Toodyay - - -	1	90	106	48	134	13	81	94	31	15	—	2	—	35	—	31	3	169	14	7	874	423	12	—	24	152	39	113	—	—	—	111	—
Murray - -	1	40	43	32	30	6	35	42	11	6	—	—	—	6	—	4	—	5	15	—	276	203	18	7	4	11	15	14	—	—	—	4	—
Wellington - -	1	106	121	48	55	20	98	113	31	14	—	9	2	16	—	18	2	132	33	3	822	375	10	27	36	187	47	70	2	—	6	62	—
Sussex - - -	—	42	42	16	45	8	30	32	23	5	—	2	1	16	—	1	3	31	24	7	328	221	5	—	5	20	41	30	—	—	—	6	—
Plantagenet - -	—	95	76	49	70	11	89	95	34	9	—	12	4	46	5	28	3	122	20	8	776	355	—	7	49	97	44	114	—	1	7	99	3
Victoria - - -	—	29	23	16	35	3	23	19	3	5	—	2	1	31	—	9	—	82	14	—	295	92	8	—	7	50	15	111	—	—	—	12	—
Total - -	9	1,189	1,148	728	1,002	226	1,141	1,294	596	281	5	99	19	253	8	207	20	1,030	195	38	9,488	5,216	552	222	432	1,324	323	850	35	15	42	431	46
Add the military, their wives and families -	—	238	162	25	102	—	238	174	14	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	953	590	2	61	21	279	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ticket-of-leave men on public works - -	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	924	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	924
Prisoners in Convict Establishment and colonial gaols	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	611	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	611
Grand Totals - -	9	1,427	1,310	753	1,104	226	1,379	1,468	610	281	5	99	19	253	8	207	20	1,030	195	38	11,976	5,806	554	283	453	1,603	323	850	35	15	42	431	1,581

No. 5.—*continued.*

Showing the Population, Crop, and Stock in the various Districts of the Colony of Western Australia on the 30th September 1854.

Towns and Districts.	Occupation.																Crop.												Stock.					Fallow Land.
	Agriculture.			Grazing.		Trade.						Other Classes.					Residue.													Description of Stock.					
	Occupiers employing Labourers.	Ditto not employing Labourers.	Agricultural Labourers.	In care of sheep.	In care of cattle.	Storekeepers and other Retail Dealers, and their Assistants.	Bricklayers and Masons.	Smiths.	Carpenters and Joiners.	Painters and Glaziers.	Tailors and Shoemakers.	Capitalists, Bankers, Professional Men, their Clerks and Assistants.	Civil Officers, their Clerks & Assistants.	Labourers employed as Boatmen, Mariners, and others not Agricultural.	Domestic Servants (Male).	All other Males above 14 years, not included in the foregoing.	Women and Children for the most part dependent on the foregoing.	Wheat.	Barley.	Oats.	Rye.	Maize.	Beans and other Pulse.	Potatoes.	Vineyard.	Garden.	Hay and Green Crops.	Total in Cultivation.	Produce of Vineyards last Vintage.		Horses.	Sheep.	Cattle.	Goats.	Pigs.	Total Number of Acres.
																		Acres.	Acres.	Acres	Acres	Acres	Acres	Acres	Acres	Acres	Acres.	Acres.	Gallons of Wine.	Dried Fruit in lbs.						
Perth and its suburbs - -	36	20	45	4	8	53	26	21	68	9	49	18	68	331	15	70	1,588	59¼	31¼	5¼	14¾	5¼	5¾	35¾	31	104½	57¾	350¼	3038	3237	215	1,027	711	315	392	32
Fremantle ditto - -	4	10	25	1	3	16	40	10	34	2	12	16	13	169	18	265	969	40	36¾	8	3½	1	1	8½	4½	20½	92½	216¼	—	—	85	771	447	208	107	2½
Swan - - - -	46	26	112	12	17	8	6	8	15	—	18	13	8	25	18	34	607	1310	114	155¼	789¾	21¾	3	31½	54¾	66	935	3481	3546	2790	633	10,784	4106	270	612	337
York - - - -	71	34	106	100	38	4	2	2	5	—	1	4	6	175	10	148	400	1574	514½	96½	41½	—	—	3	20¾	32¼	550½	2833	160	—	864	67,858	1128	18	1298	444
Toodyay - - -	42	16	213	43	30	4	12	12	19	2	13	4	7	58	26	33	340	1496¼	323¼	13¾	6¾	¼	⅛	3¾	9¾	28	320	2202¼	27	157	1036	49,728	3513	40	888	333¼
Murray - - -	21	23	47	1	20	—	1	—	1	—	—	1	1	5	6	13	136	341¾	70¼	47	—	1	1¼	13	7¼	15¾	148½	645⅜	552	678	279	1,210	1863	13	228	79½
Wellington - -	31	25	96	8	15	4	8	10	14	1	9	2	13	4	16	137	429	779	249¾	9½	7	2½	3¼	65½	22¼	46	205½	1390¼	1342	903	316	4,009	3721	101	249	191¼
Sussex - - -	17	15	41	2	4	1	6	4	6	—	3	3	—	11	7	51	157	118	103	—	50	5	—	38	3	4	25	346	—	—	432	540	2258	—	70	96
Plantagenet - -	24	73	136	28	4	9	10	5	11	1	11	22	23	52	4	112	251	109¾	60¾	6¼	10	2	1	17½	2	25¼	55½	290	—	300	439	19,686	578	4	185	64¾
Victoria - -	17	—	23	15	11	—	6	4	3	—	2	3	30	1	25	75	80	141½	82	23	—	2¾	—	5¼	1¼	9	32	296¾	—	—	200	17,955	2111	11	46	83
Add the military, their wives and families - -	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ticket-of-leave men on public works - -	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Prisoners in Convict Establishment and colonial gaols	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Grand Totals - -	309	242	844	214	150	99	117	76	176	17	118	86	169	881	145	938	4957	5969½	1585½	364½	923¼	41½	15¾	221¾	156½	351	2422¼	12051½	8665	8054	4499	178568	20436	980	4078	1663¼

CHARLES SHOLL, Registrar General.

No. 6.

CENTESIMAL TABLE of the POPULATION of WESTERN AUSTRALIA (comprising Free, Military, Aborigines in private employ, and Bond,) on the 30th September 1854.

A. shows the description and number of which the Centesimal Numbers are the per-centage.

—	SEXES.		AGES.									CONDITION.					MARRIED.							
	Whole Population.		Males.	Females.	Whole Population.	Males.	Females.	Whole Population.	Males.	Females.	Whole Population.	Whole Population.				Male Population above 12.	Free Population above 12.	Conditional-Pardon Population.	Ticket-of-Leave Population.	Males above 12.	Females above 12.	Married Men.	Married Females.	Whole Population.
A	11,976		7,973	4,003	11,976	7,973	4,003	11,976	7,973	4,003	11,976	11,976				6,663	6,023	376	2,189	6,663	2,584	1,755	1,605	11,976
	Males.	Females.	Under 12.	Under 12.	Under 12.	Between 12 and 21.	Between 12 and 21.	Between 12 and 21.	21 years and upwards.	21 years and upwards.	21 years and upwards.	Free.	Conditional-Pardon Men.	Ticket-of-Leave Holders	Prisoners.	Conditional-Pardon and Ticket-of-Leave Holders and Prisoners.	Free.	Conditional Pardon.	Holders of Tickets of Leave.	Males.	Females.	Under 21.	Under 21.	Married.
	7,973	4,003	1,310	1,468	2,778	814	836	1,650	5,849	1,699	7,548	8,800	376	2,189	611	3,176	3,041	104	215	1,755	1,605	22	226	3,360
Centesimal Proportion - - -	66·57	33·42	16·43	36·67	23·19	10·20	20·88	13·77	73·36	42·44	63·02	73·48	3·13	18·27	5·10	47·66	50·48	27·65	9·82	26·33	63·33	1·25	14·08	28·05

RELIGION.							OCCUPATION.							
Whole Population. 11,976.							Whole Population. 11,976.							
Church of England.	Wesleyans.	Independents.	Other Protestant Disenters.	Church of Rome.	Jews, Mahomedans, and other Religions not specified.	Total Protestants.	Agricultural and Grazing.	Commerce.	Mechanics, Handicraft Artizans.	Civil Service.	Military.	Labourers not Agricultural and Male Servants.	Other Males above 14 not herein-before specified.	Residue.
6,656	589	298	495	2,034	1,904	8,038	1,759	185	504	169	400	976	2,473	5,510
55·57	4·91	2·48	4·13	16·98	15·89	67·11	14·68	1·54	4·20	1·41	3·34	8·14	20·64	46·00

CHARLES SHOLL, Registrar General.

WESTERN AUSTRALIA.

No. 7.

RETURN of BIRTHS registered in the Colony of Western Australia during the Years 1848–54 inclusive.

YEAR.	MALES.	FEMALES.	TOTALS.
1848	59	127	186
1849	85	77	162
1850	99	87	186
1851	117	103	220
1852	159	100	259
1853	148	109	257
1854	188	189	377

CHARLES SHOLL,
Registrar General.

No. 8.

RETURN of MARRIAGES registered in the Colony of Western Australia during the Years 1848–54 inclusive.

YEAR.	NUMBER.
1848	28
1849	51
1850	37
1851	57
1852	66
1853	122
1854	153

CHARLES SHOLL,
Registrar General.

No. 9.

RETURN of the Number of DEATHS registered in the Colony of Western Australia during the Years 1848–54 inclusive.

YEAR.	MALES.							FEMALES.							GRAND TOTAL.
	Under 3 years.	3 and under 10.	10 and under 20.	20 and under 30.	30 and under 60.	60 and upwards.	Total.	Under 3 years.	3 and under 10.	10 and under 20.	20 and under 30.	30 and under 60.	60 and upwards.	Total.	
1848	10	5	–	10	9	7	41	18	2	–	1	5	1	27	68
1849	6	–	4	1	6	2	19	5	3	–	1	–	1	10	29
1850	11	–	2	4	12	2	31	9	1	1	2	7	3	23	54
1851	11	2	2	2	6	2	25	9	1	–	–	1	1	12	37
1852	14	1	4	5	14	3	41	11	1	3	2	6	1	24	65
*1853	–	–	–	–	–	–	46	–	–	–	–	–	–	46	92
1854	71	1	–	7	21	5	51	9	–	2	3	4	1	19	70

* No accurate returns made.

CHARLES SHOLL,
Registrar General.

No. 10.

COMPARATIVE ABSTRACT of the Crops for the Years 1848 to 1854 inclusive.

CROPS.	1848.	1849.	1850.	1851.	1852.	1853.	1854.
	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	A res.	Acres.	Acres.
Wheat	3,316¾	3,455¾	4,416	4,089	4,304¼	5,052¾	5,969½
Barley	672	671	637	610	805	1,993¾	1,585½
Oats	133¾	152	140½	77¾	129	200	364½
Rye	100¼	76	139¼	117½	110	150¾	923¼
Maize	38¾	38	36	17¼	14	22¼	41½
Beans and other pulse	No return.	No return.	37½	6	8¼	7	15¾
Potatoes	120¼	103¼	138	117	133	159¼	221¾
* Vineyard	114	156	215	233½	233	246½	156½
* Garden	224	222½	84	159¼	180½	196¼	351
Hay and green crops	2,320¾	2,021¼	1,567	1,872	1,717	2,270½	2,422¼
Totals	7,040½	6,896	7,410¼	7,299¼	7,634	10,299	12,051½

* In the return under the head of "Vineyard" for 1854 a great reduction will be found over that of 1853, while a corresponding increase is apparent in "Garden." I have reason to believe that this arises from individuals confounding the two and returning them indiscriminately, no diminution in the cultivation of the vine having taken place.

CHARLES SHOLL,
Registrar General.

No. 11.

COMPARATIVE ABSTRACT of the Returns of Stock for the Years 1848–54 inclusive.

STOCK.	1848.	1849.	1850.	1851.	1852.	1853.	1854.
Horses	2,095	2,359	2,635	2,978	3,330	3,986	4,499
*Sheep	141,123	144,000	128,111	141,413	155,132	157,968	173,568
Cattle	10,919	11,938	13,074	15,315	15,647	20,265	20,436
Goats	1,431	No return.	No return.	596	634	1,013	980
Pigs	2,287	3,185	3,190	No return.	3,250	4,151	4,073

* In consequence of the depressed state of the colony in the year 1850 prior to the arrival of convicts, many of the farmers did not increase their flocks, and numbers of sheep were boiled down for tallow.

CHARLES SHOLL,
Registrar General.

No. 12.

RETURN of LANDS granted, sold, and under Lease in the Colony of Western Australia, during the years 1848–54 inclusive, showing the Revenue derivable from the two latter sources.

YEAR.	No. of Acres granted without Purchase.	No. of Acres sold.	Amount realized by Land Sales.	Lands under Lease and Licence.	Amounts realized by Leases and Licences.
			£ s. d.	Acres.	
1848	2,560	6,366	6,366 0 0		
1849	Nil.	854¼	854 5 0		
1850	2,198½	306	323 13 0		
1851	117½	1,215	1,329 10 0		
1852	Nil.	2,169¼	2,197 12 9	2,356,239	2,054 14 6
1853	Nil.	1,617	1,711 0 8	2,649,729	2,299 13 9
*1854	Nil.	2,142	1,911 17 0	3,080,668½	2,984 2 0

* This return applies only to country lands, and does not include town or suburban allotments.

CHARLES SHOLL,
Registrar General.

WESTERN AUSTRALIA.

No. 13.

RETURN showing the Revenue and Expenditure of the Colony during the Year 1848-54 inclusive. Also the Imperial Expenditure (exclusive of Parliamentary Grant) for the Years 1848-54 inclusive.

YEAR.	Colonial Revenue.	Grants in Aid.	Total Revenue.	Total Expenditure.	Imperial Expenditure.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1848 - -	10,492 13 11	7,695 9 10	18,188 3 9	18,419 8 11	
1849 -	9,596 12 9	7,743 14 11	17,340 7 8	17,150 17 6	
1850 - -	12,440 6 6	6,697 7 8	19,137 14 2	16,656 16 1	22,153 2 10
1851 -	18,169 1 3	7,032 7 5	25,201 8 8	23,926 7 1	49,486 14 8
1852 - -	29,533 2 3	7,488 12 10	37,021 15 1	34,777 9 3	85,515 0 0
1853 -	29,083 18 7	8,269 7 5	37,353 6 0	38,052 15 9	97,516 17 5
1854 - -	34,161 13 8	11,613 16 9	45,775 10 5	45,171 7 8	132,597 3 0

CHARLES SHOLL,
Registrar General.

No. 14.

COMPARATIVE ABSTRACT of the Returns of Imports and Exports for the Years 1848–54 inclusive.

YEARS.	IMPORTS.	EXPORTS.
	£	£
1848 - - -	45,411	29,598
1849 - -	28,534	26,156
1850 - - -	52,351	22,135
1851 - -	56,598	26,870
*1852 - - -	97,304	24,181
*1853 - -	126,735	31,645
1854 - -	128,259	36,245

* Consequent on the introduction of convicts, importations to a larger amount than in any of the former years became necessary.

CHARLES SHOLL,
Registrar General.

No. 15.

RETURN of Imports from 1st January to 31st March 1854.

ARTICLES IMPORTED.		VALUE ON WHICH DUTY HAS BEEN PAID.			
		COUNTRY IMPORTED FROM.			
Description.	Quantity.	Great Britain.	British Colonies.	United States.	Foreign States.	Total.
		£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Apparel and slops		2,928 11 6	124 7 0	2 8 0		3,055 6 6
Apothecary wares		340 1 0	1 14 0			341 15 0
Bran and pollard			48 0 0			48 0 0
Bags and sacks		117 3 0				117 3 0
Bricks		22 16 0				22 16 0
Brooms and brushes		73 10 0	2 8 0			75 18 0
Butter and cheese		1,182 16 2	10 16 0			1,193 12 2
Beer, ale, and cider, draught	27,350 galls.	2,249 15 0	372 0 0			2,621 15 0
Ditto ditto bottled	14,718 „	2,116 13 6	282 0 0			2,398 13 6
Boots and shoes		1,084 6 10	82 9 0			1,166 15 10
Books and stationery		295 4 0				295 4 0
Beef, pork, bacon, and hams		1,489 6 4	527 18 0			2,017 4 4
Canvas and twine		160 1 0	29 2 0	3 12 0		192 15 0
Carts, carriages, and wheelwrights work		215 19 0				215 19 0
Cordage		397 16 0	8 14 0			406 10 0
Coffee	1,996 lbs.		84 16 6			84 16 6
Cabinet and upholstery wares		757 12 0	257 13 0			1,015 5 0
Deals, boards, timber, and spars		431 10 7				431 10 7
Drapery and haberdashery		8,361 6 0	907 1 7	100 16 0		9,369 3 7
Earthenware and glass		509 6 2	68 5 7	7 16 0		585 7 9
Fruits, dried		559 0 10	88 3 0			647 3 10
Flour and biscuit		226 2 10	1,263 7 0	30 0 0		1,519 9 10
Grain: wheat						
Ditto, other		145 1 7	161 8 0			306 9 7
Hardware and cutlery		293 5 7	146 12 2			439 17 9
Hats and bonnets		511 6 0	26 2 0			537 8 0
Hay						
Hops		250 4 0				250 4 0
Horses						
Iron in bar and hooping		16 13 0				16 13 0
Ironmongery		1,643 1 10	127 7 6			1,770 9 4
Leather		240 0 0	352 17 0			592 17 0
Lead		159 12 0				159 12 0
Mats and baskets		22 19 6	49 4 0			72 3 6
Oilman's stores		2,090 15 8	402 9 0			2,493 4 8
Oils: colours, painter's wares		95 16 0	4 16 0			100 12 0
Potatoes						
Powder and shot		99 5 0				99 5 0
Rice			218 2 0			218 2 0
Sugar, moist			783 0 0			783 0 0
Ditto, refined	8,720 lbs.	207 13 7				207 13 7
Soap and candles		928 16 8	443 2 7			1,371 19 3
Saddlery and harness		756 11 0	32 7 4			788 18 4
Tea	3,027 lbs.	129 12 0	123 7 6			252 19 6
Tools and implements		141 19 2				141 19 2
Wood goods		12 18 0				12 18 0
All other articles		1,090 19 6	230 6 10	10 16 0		1,328 2 4
		32,361 7 10	7,259 16 7	155 8 0		39,776 12 5
Spirits :—						
Arrack						
Brandy 5,009		1,486 2 0	257 15 0		34 6 0	1,778 3 0
Geneva 448		29 14 0	37 10 0			67 4 0
Gin 1,068	9,347 galls.	205 16 0	7 16 0			213 12 0
Rum 2,788		374 10 0	149 13 0			524 3 0
Whiskey 34			6 16 0			6 16 0
Tobacco:—						
Manufactured 11,591		294 6 0	92 17 0	69 15 6	127 5 0	584 3 6
Unmanufactured 1,331		22 3 8				22 3 8
Cigars 618	13,547 lbs.	37 9 0	29 0 0		63 12 0	130 1 0
Snuff 7		1 15 0				1 15 0
Wine:—						
Foreign 6,188	6,188 galls	1,330 13 0	113 7 0			1,444 0 0
British						
Total Amount		36,143 16 6	7,954 10 7	225 3 6	225 3 0	44,548 13 7

WESTERN AUSTRALIA.

IMPORTS from 1st April to 30th June 1854.

ARTICLES IMPORTED.		VALUE ON WHICH DUTY HAS BEEN PAID.				
		COUNTRY IMPORTED FROM.				
Description.	Quantity.	Great Britain.	British Colonies.	United States.	Foreign States.	Total.
		£ s. d.	£ s. d.			£ s. d.
Apparel and slops		1,244 11 6	37 9 0			1,282 0 6
Apothecary wares		326 2 0	17 16 0			343 18 0
Bran and pollard						
Bags and sacks		100 16 0	27 14 6			128 10 6
Bricks						
Brooms and brushes		68 8 0				68 8 0
Butter and cheese		424 0 4	41 5 0			465 5 4
Beer, ale and cider, draught 15,950 gallons	24,738 galls.	1,503 11 0				1,503 11 0
Ditto, ale and cider bottled 8,788 gallons		1,476 2 6	24 0 0			1,500 2 6
Boots and shoes		1,158 12 0	562 18 6			1,721 10 6
Books and stationery		601 16 0				601 16 0
Beef, pork, bacon, and hams		475 11 6	268 8 0			743 10 9
Canvass and twine						
Carts, carriages, and wheelwrights work			138 0 0			138 0 0
Cordage		127 4 0	15 18 0			143 2 0
Coffee			19 4 0			19 4 0
Cabinet and upholstery wares		560 11 6	221 5 6			781 17 0
Deals, boards, timber, and spars		57 12 0	36 0 0			93 12 0
Drapery, haberdashery and millinery		5,228 12 10	697 18 6			5,926 11 4
Earthenware and glass		618 8 0	57 12 0			676 0 0
Fruits, dried		119 8 0	61 15 6			181 3 6
Flour and biscuit		80 18 0	4 4 0			85 2 0
Grain : wheat						
Ditto, other			883 2 2			883 2 2
Hardware and cutlery		270 9 11	19 10 0			289 19 11
Hats and bonnets		234 12 0				234 12 0
Hay						
Hops		508 16 0				508 16 0
Horses						
Iron in bar and hooping						
Ironmongery		796 19 3	97 4 0			894 3 3
Leather		640 16 0				640 16 0
Lead		268 16 0				268 16 0
Mats and baskets						
Oilman's stores		1,732 2 2	310 16 2			2,042 18 4
Oils, colours and painter's wares		165 12 0	5 8 0			171 0 0
Potatoes						
Powder and shot		32 8 0				32 8 0
Rice		12 0 0	274 4 0			286 4 0
Sugar, moist		47 8 0	1,818 6 0			1,865 14 0
Ditto, refined		196 11 9				166 11 9
Soap and candles		880 17 0	269 8 0			1,150 5 0
Saddlery and harness		433 4 0				433 4 0
Tea		113 16 0	91 4 0			205 0 0
Tools and implements		508 16 0	24 10 2			533 6 2
Wood goods		63 0 0				63 0 0
All other articles		573 0 0	118 16 0			696 16 0
		21,626 9 3	6,143 17 0			2,770 6 3
Spirits :—						
Arrack						
Brandy 3,168		876 8 0	253 18 0			1,130 6 0
Geneva 255	7,797 galls.	33 18 0	7 5 0			41 3 0
Gin 1,607		257 16 0	63 12 0			321 8 0
Rum 2,767		422 12 6	68 5 0			490 17 6
Whiskey						
Tobacco :—						
Manufactured 9,108		365 16 0	118 19 0			484 15 0
Unmanufactured	9,358 lbs.					
Cigars 406			76 4 0			76 4 0
Snuff 24		6 0 0				6 0 0
Wines :—						
Foreign 3,324	3,324 galls.	537 19 6	209 18 6			747 18 0
British						
Total Amount		24,126 19 3	6,941 18 6			31,068 17 9

IMPORTS from 1st July to 30th September 1854.

ARTICLES IMPORTED.		VALUE ON WHICH DUTY HAS BEEN PAID.				
		COUNTRY IMPORTED FROM.				
Description.	Quantity.	Great Britain.	British Colonies.	United States.	Foreign States.	Total.
		£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.		£ s. d.
Apparel and slops		1,017 6 0	126 10 0	39 12 0		1,253 8 0
Apothecary wares		164 13 0	2 8 0			167 1 0
Bricks		2 0 0				2 0 0
Brooms and brushes		40 16 0	31 0 0			71 16 0
Butter and cheese		115 10 0	11 10 0			127 0 0
Boots and shoes		829 4 0				829 4 0
Bacon and hams		6 5 0				6 5 0
Cordage		78 0 0	1 4 1			79 4 1
Cabinet and upholstery wares		253 5 0	154 5 0			407 10 0
Carts, carriages, and wheelwrights' work		88 0 0	8 0 0			96 0 0
Deals, boards, timber, and spars		21 5 0				21 5 0
Drapery, haberdashery, millinery, and hosiery		5,384 14 0	395 11 0			5,780 5 0
Earthenware and glass		144 0 0	28 0 0	1 4 0		173 4 0
Fruits, dried		41 0 0	83 0 0			124 0 0
Hardware and cutlery		85 0 0	36 0 0	3 0 0		124 0 0
Hats and bonnets		188 10 0				188 10 0
Hops		367 0 0				367 0 0
Iron, in bar and hooping						
Ironmongery		317 10 0				317 10 0
Leather, unmanufactured		245 0 0	6 12 0			251 12 0
Lead						
Oilman's stores		760 0 0	133 5 0			893 10 0
Powder and shot		54 10 0				54 10 0
Soap and candles		607 0 0		16 16 0		623 16 0
Saddlery and harness		163 0 0				163 0 0
Stationery		263 10 0	4 0 0			267 10 0
Tools and implements		40 0 0				40 0 0
Wood goods						
All other articles		234 11 0	151 11 0			386 2 0
		11,511 14 0	1,242 16 0	60 12 0		12,815 2 0
Spirits :—						
Arrack						
Brandy 2,691		864 10 0	132 12 0			997 2 0
Geneva	2,973 galls.					
Gin						
Rum 98			24 10 0			24 10 0
Whiskey 184		36 16 0				36 16 0
Wine:—						
British						
Foreign 265	265 galls.	59 12 6				59 12 6
Tobacco:—						
Manufactured 5,359		29 0 0	237 0 8	4 15 0		270 15 8
Unmanufactured	5,367 lbs.					
Cigars 8				1 0 0		1 0 0
Snuff						
Beer, ale, &c. :—						
Draught 100		7 18 4				7 18 4
Bottled 842	942 galls.	115 0 0	45 0 0			160 0 0
Coffee						
Tea 1,605	1,605 lbs.		120 7 6			120 7 6
Sugar :—						
Refined and Candy 25		70 0 0				70 0 0
Moist 278	303 cwt.		285 0 0			285 0 0
Total Amount £		12,694 10 10	2,087 6 2	66 7 0		14,848 4 0

WESTERN AUSTRALIA.

No. 16.

A RETURN of Goods imported (Duty-free) into the Colony of Western Australia during the Quarter ending 30th September 1854.

ARTICLES IMPORTED.	COUNTRY IMPORTED FROM.				
Description.	Great Britain.	British Colonies.	United States.	Foreign States.	Total.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.			£ s. d.
Animals, living					75 0 0
Bread and biscuit		75 0 0			10 0 0
Bags and sacks	10 0 0				94 17 0
Bales for wool	76 17 0	18 0 0			422 0 0
Books, printed, not being account books	412 0 0	10 0 0			
Bran					
Coals, coke, and other fuel					
Corn and other grain		213 0 0			213 0 0
Flour and meal		5,996 0 0			5,996 0 0
Implements and machinery, agricultural	30 0 0				30 0 0
Meats, salted and cured	80 0 0				80 0 0
Machinery for mills	466 0 0				466 0 0
Oatmeal					
Pumps and other apparatus for raising water	25 0 0				25 0 0
Pulse					
Plants		30 0 0			30 0 0
Rice		25 0 0			25 0 0
£	1,099 17 0	6,367 0 0			7,466 17 0

R. M'B. BROUN,
Collector of Customs.

No. 17.

EXPORTS Western Australia, January 1st to March 31st 1854.

ARTICLES EXPORTED.		ESTIMATED VALUE.				
		COUNTRY TO WHICH EXPORTED.				
Description.	Quantity.	Great Britain.	British Colonies.	United States.	Foreign States.	Total.
		£ s. d.	£ s. d.			£ s. d.
Bricks	25,000		75 0 0			75 0 0
Fish	6½ tons.		129 0 0			129 0 0
Gum	3,752 lbs.	44 13 0				44 13 0
Hides and skins	9,300 skins.		183 0 0			183 0 0
Lime	3,358 bushels		167 18 0			167 18 0
Specimens in Natural History			7 0 0			7 0 0
Timber		25 0 0	970 4 6			995 4 6
Tallow	338 lbs.		8 10 0			8 10 0
Vegetables			66 5 10			66 5 10
Whalebone	18½ cwt.	138 7 0				138 7 0
Woodwork			18 12 0			18 12 0
Wool	370,266 lbs.	16,936 6 0	1,774 0 0			18,710 6 0
£		17,144 6 0	3,399 10 4			20,543 16 4

Imported Articles Re-exported.

	Great Britain.	British Colonies.	United States.	Foreign States.	Total.
	£ s. d.				£ s. d.
Apparel and slops	60 0 0				60 0 5
Apothecary wares	5 0 0				5 0 0
Butter and cheese	25 0 0				25 0 0
Hams	27 4 0				27 4 0
£	117 4 0				117 4 0

EXPORTS, Western Australia, from 31st April to 30th June 1854.

ARTICLES EXPORTED.		ESTIMATED VALUE.				
		COUNTRY EXPORTED FROM.				
Description.	Quantity.	Great Britain.	British Colonies.	United States.	Foreign States.	TOTAL.
			£ s. d.			£ s. d.
Animals living	2 Horses.		50 0 0			50 0 0
Salt	20 Tons.		100 0 0			100 0 0
Timber	- -		4,063 0 0			4,063 0 0
Woodwork	- -		350 0 0			350 0 0
£			4,563 0 0			4,563 0 0

Imported Articles Re-exported from 1st April to 30th June 1854.

	Great Britain.	British Colonies.	United States.	Foreign States.	TOTAL.
		£ s. d.			£ s. d.
Beer, ale, cyder, 894 gallons		117 6 0			117 6 0
Drapery and haberdashery		240 0 0			240 0 0
Cabinet and upholstery wares		67 10 0			67 10 0
Earthenware and glass		10 0 0			10 0 0
Hardware and cutlery		69 0 0			69 0 0
Leather unmanufactured		50 0 0			50 0 0
Oilman's stores		67 0 0			67 0 0
Soap and candles		42 0 0			42 0 0
Woodwork		45 0 0			45 0 0
Spirits :—					
Gin 108 gallons		21 12 0			21 12 0
Rum 84 gallons		14 14 0			14 14 0
Wine :—					
Foreign 674 gallons		151 13 0			151 13 0
Tobacco :—					
Cigars 290 lbs.		72 10 0			72 10 0
£		968 5 0			968 5 0

EXPORTS, Western Australia, for the Quarter ending 30th September 1854.

ARTICLES EXPORTED.		ESTIMATED VALUE.				
		COUNTRY TO WHICH EXPORTED.				
Description.	Quantity.	Great Britain.	British Colonies.	United States.	Foreign States.	TOTAL.
			£ s. d.			£ s. d.
Fish	3 tons.		25 0 0			25 0 0
Oil (Whale)	8 tuns.		460 0 0			460 0 0
Timber	73 tons.		642 5 0			642 5 0
Hides and skins	202 skins.		3 19 6			3 19 6
Vegetables	- -		16 0 0	48 0 0		16 0 0
£	- -		1,147 4 6	48 0 0		1,195 4 6

Imported Articles Re-exported from 1st July to 30th September 1854.

	Great Britain.	British Colonies.	United States.	Foreign States.	TOTAL.
		£ s. d.			£ s. d.
Carts, carriages and wheelwright's work		10 0 0			10 0 0
Oilman's stores		16 0 0			16 0 0
Tea		15 0 0			15 0 0
Spirits :—					
Brandy 790 gallons		276 10 0			276 10 0
Geneva 132 gallons		19 16 0			19 16 0
Rum 2,215 gallons		387 12 6			387 12 6
Whiskey 59 gallons		11 16 0			11 16 0
£		736 14 6			736 14 6

R. M'B. BROUN, Collector of Customs.

WESTERN AUSTRALIA.

No. 18.

RETURN of Shipping entered Inwards in the Colony for the Years 1848–54 inclusive.

YEAR.	No. of Vessels Entered Inwards.	Great Britain.	British Colonies.	United States.	Foreign States.	Total.
	Tonnage.	Tonnage.	Tonnage.	Tonnage.	Tonnage.	Tonnage.
1848 - -	69	1,416	4,888	9,080	110	15,494
1849 -	42	927	4,314	2,379	332	7,952
1850 - -	64	3,584	5,841	5,633	930	15,988
1851 -	79	4,628	10,206	2,706	„	16,540
1852 - -	74	12,883	8,701	1,610	2,132	25,326
1853 -	108	24,139	18,285	1,136	1,190	44,750
*1854 -	59	8,336	18,116	1,330	„	27,782

* Calculated to 30th September only.

CHARLES SHOLL,
Registrar General.

No. 19.

RETURN of Shipping entered Outwards in the Colony of Western Australia during the Years 1848–54 inclusive.

YEAR.	No. of Vessels Entered Outwards.	Great Britain.	British Colonies.	United States.	Foreign States.	Total.
	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.
1848 - -	68	398	5,161	7,533	365	13,457
1849 -	—	—	—	—	—	—
1850 - -	67	4,841	4,473	4,341	1,093	14,748
1851 -	79	2,810	11,339	4,215	297	18,661
1852 - -	76	5,019	14,766	1,901	2,340	24,026
1853 -	98	6,860	24,120	1,136	6,705	38,821
*1854 - -	67	3,735	23,051	701	4,958	32,445

* To 30th September only.

CHARLES SHOLL,
Registrar General.

No. 20.

A RETURN of all "Vessels entered Inwards" in the Colony of Western Australia from 1st January to 30th September 1854.

1854.	No. of Vessels. Entered Inwards.	Great Britain.		British Colonies.		United States.		Foreign States.		Total.	
		Tons.	Men.	Tons.	Men.	Tons.	Men.	Tons.	Men.	Tons.	Men.
Quarter ending 31st March	25	4,203	169	8,009	528	898	76	—	—	13,110	773
Ditto „ 30th June	17	2,536	114	5,480	420	—	—	—	—	8,016	534
Ditto „ 30th Sept.	17	1,597	76	4,627	531	432	33	—	—	6,656	640

R. M'B. BROUN,
Collector of Customs.

No. 21.

A RETURN of all "Vessels Cleared Outwards" in the Colony of Western Australia from 1st January to 30th September 1854.

1854.	No. of Vessels Cleared Outwards.	Great Britain.		British Colonies.		United States.		Foreign States.		Total.	
		Tons.	Men.	Tons.	Men.	Tons.	Men.	Tons.	Men.	Tons.	Men.
Quarter ending 31st March	30	3,735	165	9,568	567	269	24	2,453	81	16,025	837
Ditto „ 30th June	19	—	—	7,023	524	—	—	1,743	79	8,766	603
Ditto „ 30th Sept.	18	—	—	6,460	628	432	33	762	22	7,654	683

R. M'B. BROUN,
Collector of Customs.

Enclosure 2 in No. 35.

Perth, March 7, 1855.

To his Excellency CHARLES FITZGERALD, Esq., Commander in the Royal Navy, &c. &c., Governor of Western Australia and its Dependencies.

May it please your Excellency,

WE, the Members of the Board of Education, in submitting to your Excellency the following Report, beg in the first place to express our regret that, should the news recently received from England be confirmed, this will be the last annual report that we shall have the honour to lay before your Excellency.

The interest that your Excellency has manifested in the cause of education has been rewarded by the establishment on a firm basis of many excellent schools, and has awakened a real and general demand for good education in every district in the colony.

The principal business on which we have been engaged during the past year has been the consideration of and the compiling a set of rules and regulations, which we had the honour of laying before your Excellency a short time since, and for the approval of which we have the honour to render our thanks to your Excellency.

Some of these rules have guided the board from the commencement of its operations, others have been made necessary by rules which have emanated from the office of Colonial Secretary, and others in the opinion of the board have become essential from circumstances recently developed in this particular colony.

The principal alterations which have been adopted after much consideration are :— 1st, the introduction into our system of the principle, that the education given at the Government schools should ultimately be limited only by our means of obtaining instructors ; and, secondly, the fixing as a present limit, an education for boys equal to that obtainable at a good English grammar school, and for girls such a one as a respectable middle-class person would endeavour to secure for his daughter in England.

Although at first sight this may appear extravagant, a consideration of the following arguments will, we are convinced, lead all persons interested in the question to agree with us on this most important subject.

In large communities it is possible for all ranks and classes to be educated separately, each class is sufficiently numerous and sufficiently wealthy to pay teachers for its own children : but here, were the whole of the wealthy class of the colony to unite for the purpose, they could not give an adequate remuneration to a single good teacher of each sex, when the high prices which would be demanded for boarding are taken into consideration. Thus that class which would in future naturally lead the community, could not as an whole be better educated than those who would be their workmen or servants.

In this colony the children of the middle and some of the working classes will probably be among the governing body of the colony at no distant period. We cannot but think that it is far better that such should be educated to the greatest extent that their circumstances would admit of, than that they should be left in a state worse than ignorance, that is, given the means of acquiring and imparting knowledge without those powers which may lead them to form a true judgment of affairs and tastes which may tend to cherish kindly and courteous feelings in the conduct of them.

The Government, by the adoption of this principle, will also gain the great advantage of obtaining, as the conductors of their more numerous schools, gentlemen of superior attainment ; the richer classes obtain a good solid education at a rate far less than they could in any other method, and the poorer the benefit of a direct and constant supervision by the first teacher.

The most obvious objection which we can foresee to the proposal is, the discouragement that this system will afford to private enterprize.

The argument that good teachers are not obtainable by any other method than that pointed out is perhaps the best answer to this objection. It is a good education that is required by the public ; if the Government bid the highest they will get the best teacher obtainable in any given place, and, in all probability, will induce persons to resort to the profession of education as a means of livelihood who would not otherwise have done so.

The Government system, offering as it does, employment and assistance to the duly qualified teacher, whenever a demand for education exists, can do no prejudice to his or her interests ; and we are of opinion that the existence of many inferior teachers, where superior are obtainable, can only tend to depress the standard of education.

The additional expense of the system is by no means so considerable as might have been anticipated ; for example, in the Perth boys' school—the only one in which it at present is in operation—we do not consider it will exceed at most 25*l.* to 40*l.* per annum, the only additional demand at present being 10*l.* per annum, for the teaching of music by the second master.

It will not probably be applicable to more than two or three schools for some time. The experiment appears to be worth trying, and it would seem the duty of the Government to comply as far as possible with a demand which has for some time existed.

With regard to the schools under our charge, we have much pleasure in reporting that four new schools have been opened during the past year, namely, the Fremantle girls'

WESTERN AUSTRALIA.

school, Pinjarrah, Vasse, and Port Gregory mixed schools. One of them, the Fremantle girls' school, we recommend to be placed on the permanent list, and we consider that the York school should also receive the same advantage, the schoolhouse having been so far completed as to be occupied, and the school altogether being one of the best managed in the colony.

We beg to acknowledge the great advantage the Perth and Fremantle boys' school have derived from the occupation of their new buildings At Toodyay the schoolhouse is so near completion that it will probably be ready for occupation before the teachers the local committee have sent for from England arrive.

While on the subject, we would beg to call attention to the conduct of the School Committee at this latter place, as deserving of every encouragement and imitation ; it is by local exertion and superintendence that schools can be made successful, and nothing can ensure a greater amount of this than the taking the whole matter into local hands, they merely adopting the system, and receiving such aid as the central authority is able to give.

The number of scholars educated at the thirteen Government schools during the past year has been 644, being an increase of 200 above the number in 1853. The girls' school at Albany being excluded from both years in consequence of the non-receipt of returns. Of this increase 132 are due to the new schools.

There are probably 1,600 children in the colony of an age capable of receiving instruction either in the infant or elder schools; of this number there may be, at an high estimate, 400 receiving instruction at the Roman Catholic or private schools, consequently 600 must be without the means or inclination on the part of the parents to educate them.

That a large proportion of this 600 are within the reach of existing schools we are convinced, and we hope that the information now given to the public will induce many parents who now hold back to take advantage of the system, as well as teachers of a superior class to become candidates for situations we from time to time are enabled to offer.

On the state of each school we would remark, that the Perth boys' school has lost a master and his wife, as first and second teacher, whose places have been supplied by a gentleman and second teacher who are apparently able to carry the school to a far greater state of efficiency than has hitherto been practicable.

The Guildford school appears in a far more satisfactory state than last year. The master of the school will probably be able to educate to nearly the full extent of our requirements.

The York school appears to do much credit to the local committee and teacher; the acquirements of the master do not extend to more than a strictly English education; but this is perhaps sufficient for the present wants of the district.

The Fremantle girls' and infants' schools appear to be in a fair position ; the former is but recently established and is hardly in good working order, but its state altogether gives much promise.

The Fremantle boys' school is at present under the second teacher, and as far as it goes is in a tolerably effective state. It is to be hoped that in the course of the year a trained master will arrive, who, it is expected, will be obtained through the medium of the Home and Colonial Church Society, when the school may, it is hoped, take a position corresponding to the importance of the town.

The Bunbury mixed school, and the Perth girls and infant schools fall somewhat short of the mark required for their respective localities. We believe that the teachers are in all painstaking, and their conduct is exemplary, but their acquirements are hardly those which fit them for the education of schools of considerable size. As far as Perth girls' school is concerned, the grant your Excellency has consented to place on the estimates for this year, will probably enable us to supply the want of a more satisfactory education for the young girls of Perth and its vicinity.

We take this opportunity of tendering our grateful thanks to Mrs. FitzGerald for her unremitting attention to the education and care of the girls in this school, as we believe that this has prevented it being to a great extent deserted for other schools which afford education of a higher class.

The remaining schools, with the exception of Albany, from which the Board are unable to obtain returns, have been too recently established for us to express any definite opinion on their merits.

We beg to express our thanks to the local government for the supply of school necessaries received during the past year. A fresh supply being needed, as well as means of obtaining school furniture, we would ask your Excellency to place a small sum at our disposal for these purposes. There is a sum on the estimates for firewood, which appears to be unnecessary, if we were allowed to employ this sum for the purpose above specified, it might be sufficient for this year. But a large number of maps and other somewhat expensive necessaries and books should be sent for as soon as possible; these will have to be paid for in 1856, and we would recommend that from 100*l.* to 150*l.* be placed on the estimates of 1856 for this purpose.

In the present year the extra sum required will be as follows:—

	£	s.	d.
Perth, Second teacher as music master	10	0	0
„ Teacher, girls' school, 9 months	45	0	0
„ Second ditto, in lieu of fees	5	0	0
„ Pupil teacher	14	10	6
„ Hire of piano, 9 months	7	10	0
York mixed school	70	0	0
To meet underdraft on schoolhouse, York	50	0	0
Schoolmistress's salary, Fremantle	35	0	0
Rent of school, Fremantle	30	0	0
Additional contributions to rural schools	30	0	0
Total	£297	0	6

Of this, 50*l.* is a charge which should have been borne in 1854, *i.e.*, the contribution towards the building of the York Schoolhouse. Seventy pounds and sixpence (70*l.* 0*s.* 6*d.*) is the additional charges consequent on the adoption of the new system in two schools, and the remaining 167*l.* by the increase of school accommodation required by the colony.

There will however be an underdraft on the estimate of this year of 80*l.*, so that the whole extra amount required will not exceed 217*l.* 0*s.* 6*d.*

The total expense of the department, including the whole charge of educating at least 644 children, and the construction of at least one schoolhouse and residence for the teacher, will not exceed 1,271*l.*, or rather more than 2*l.* for each child taught; but as a large increase in the number of children may be expected in the present year, it may be hoped that this ratio may be considerably diminished.

It is to be remembered that in a scattered community like this the cost of education per head will be much larger than in the denser one, particularly at the commencement or during any considerable enlargement of the system.

We are confident that on no one object could a liberal expenditure be more judiciously incurred, or which may more early meet with a return, than the providing a good and substantial education for the young of the colony.

W. A. SANFORD.
F. LOCHEE.
G. V. POWNALL.
J. LEONARD.
W. LOWE.

RETURN of the Number of Schools, &c.

Name of the Parish, and in what County or District.	Public or Free School.	Name of the Schoolmaster or Mistress, and Salary.	Number of Scholars. Male.	Female.	Total.	Mode of Instruction.	If supported by Government or Voluntary Contribution, and Amount of each. Government.	Voluntary Contribution.	Expense of School.
							£		£
Perth	Boys	Mr. W. Johnson, Mrs. Johnson	112		112	Ordinary class teaching. In the superior schools at Perth and Guildford. Classics and Mathematics are taught to a certain extent, and in the rest an education based on that adopted by the Commissioners of Irish Education is given. See Report.	164	Fees.	164
Ditto	Girls	Mrs. Newman, F. Cole, Pupil Teacher		44	44		52	Fees about 5*l.*	57
Ditto	Infant	Mrs. Britnall	22	23	55		40	Fees about 7*l.*	47
Fremantle	Boys	John Davis	81		81		80	Fees.	80
Ditto	Girls	Eliza Chester	13	61	74		65	Fees.	65
Ditto	Infant	M. A. Pengelly	21	38	59		40	Fees.	40
Guildford	Mixed	Rev. W. Williams	18	19	37		61	Fees and 10*l.* per an.	71
York	Mixed	G. R. Teede	36	20	56		*220	Fees and 37*l.*†	257
Bunbury	Mixed	James Hislop, B. Hislop	28	20	48		60	26*l.*	86
Pinjarrah	Mixed	John Fairburn	15	6	21		25	Fees.	25
Busselton	Mixed	L. T. Cook	5	10	15		15	Fees.	15
Port Gregory	Mixed	John Brown	15	9	22		32	Fees and 5*l.*	37
Albany	Girls	L. P. Knight			20		20	Fees.	20
					644				

* This includes 150*l.* for building schools.

† 37*l.* for building school.

WESTERN AUSTRALIA.

RULES FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF THE PUBLIC SCHOOLS IN THE COLONY OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA.

1. All schools receiving aid from colonial funds through the board, shall at all hours be open to inspection by, and be under, the control of the board.

2. The reading of the Scriptures, either in the original language or the authorized version, is the method approved for imparting religious instruction in the Government schools.

3. Five hours at the least in the day, during five days at least in the week, are to be devoted to secular education.

4. Any person who is willing to establish a school under the regulations of the board, must agree to conform to the whole of them, unless exempted by the General Board in any particular case, and such exemption must receive the sanction of his Excellency.

Mode of establishing a School in the first instance.

5. Any person or persons wishing to establish a school may communicate with the secretary of the Board of Education on the subject. This communication must contain a statement of the number of children who are likely to attend; the names of at least three respectable persons who are willing to become a Local School Committee, the distance from the nearest school, the accommodation provided, and any other information likely to be of service Should the application on the whole receive the sanction of the General Board, the board are prepared to recommend that the Government allowances should be given according to the following scale :—

12	pupils	20*l.*	per annum.
15	„	25*l.*	„
20	„	30*l.*	„
25	„	35*l.*	„

The number of pupils is to be ascertained by a daily average taken each month, and this should be certified by the chairman of the local committee.

Establishment of a fixed School.

6. When a school is fairly established with a fixed or increasing number of pupils, on the above principle, the board are prepared to recommend the payment of a fixed salary to the master or mistress exceeding 35*l.*, according to conditions herein-after mentioned, together with assistance towards the construction or rental of a schoolhouse.

7. The rule which has been hitherto adopted by the local government in giving aid to the construction of rural school buildings is this :—If the local committee construct a substantial building, containing four living rooms and kitchen, as a teacher's residence, a room at least 32 × 16 × 9 feet to the wall plate, a dormitory at least 32 × 8, they will be entitled, on the recommendation of the General Board, to 250*l.* from the colonial chest. Furniture will in general have to be provided from local resources.

Local Committees.

8. The duties of the local committee will consist in general inspection, examination of accounts, the making of requisitions, reporting to the General Board, and the general local superintendence of the school.

Education.

9. The 1st, 2nd, and 3rd form will be entitled, in both boys' and girls' schools, to receive the fullest extent of the education contained in the books of the Irish National Education system (except the scripture lessons for which the whole Bible is substituted), if the teacher profess so much, together with vocal and instrumental part music, and class drawing where competent teachers are obtainable. The 4th form is, in the boys' school, entitled to receive education of an higher class, the elements of Latin, French, algebra to simple equations, first and second books of Euclid, Greek, Roman, and English history, such as is contained in Chambers' Educational Course, physical geography, first principles of astronomy, first principles of chemistry, drawing from models, together with music as before. 5th form, a thorough grounding in Greek, Latin, and French, Algebra, Euclid, and so much of mechanics and hydrostatics as is required for an ordinary degree at Cambridge, (Whewell's Mechanical Euclid,) and the elements of physical science contained in such books as Herschell's Astronomy, Fowne's Chemistry, Lyell's Principles of Geology, Jones' Animal Kingdom, and further instructions in history. The History of England in Lardner's Cyclopedia, Guizot, Civilization in Europe, and Keightley's Outlines of History, will be the present text books of history; Telemaque will be the first French school book; Virgil, Sallust, and Cæsar, are the authorized Latin books; the Greek Testament, Homer, and Xenophon's Anabasis, are the authorized Greek books. Of the English poets—Shakspeare, Spencer, Milton, Goldsmith, and Wordsworth, are to be taught in the three higher classes at least, by the recitation or reading of selected portions. The 4th and 5th form in the girls' school might, if mistresses are obtainable, include a thorough grounding in French, the theory as well as the practice of music, singing, and if possible the piano, or a substitute for the organ; drawing from models as well as from copies; fine work; physical science

as contained in such books as Michell's Orbs of Heaven, Marcet's Conversations, &c. The board are prepared to recommend that this list be not further extended at present, other than that the books in the authorized list may be changed for others, which from time to time may be found more available or more suitable. But as the colony advances, it is to be hoped that the system of education in the government schools may comprise every subject forming part of the best modern education. It is, however, important to remark, that those availing themselves of the higher advantages that the board may be able to afford, cannot expect to do so at so low a price as that now fixed for the higher classes of education given. It is however distinctly to be understood, that any teacher in a Government school may, if he be able to teach any other language or science than that contained in the Government list, do so on his own terms out of school hours.

School Fees.

10.

1st form	2*d.* per week.
2nd ditto	4*d.* ditto.
3rd ditto	6*d.* ditto.
4th ditto	50*s.* per annum.
5th ditto	5*l.* ditto.

These fees shall in all cases be demanded, but no more, for the respective classes, except in cases of special exemption, of either the whole or part; such cases are to be recommended to the local committee by a minister of religion or other person who may satisfy the committee, and no person shall have the power to exempt, except the local committee. In cases of entire exemption, the child is to be found in books, &c., at the expense of the local Government. As a general rule, children entirely exempt shall be taught only in the three lowest classes composing the strictly English education.

Supply of Books and School requisites.

11. As the system of education in the Government schools is as far as possible uniform, the Government undertake to supply books for the three first forms at fixed prices; Mr. Arthur Shenton has undertaken to supply books for the two higher forms at fixed prices also:* a priced list is annexed. The Government supply free of cost to each school, a complete single set of books for each teacher as far as he or she may profess to teach, also a complete set of maps, charts, and other school requisites gradually. The teachers will be responsible for the due care of these books and requisites, and for all moneys received by the sale of books in their respective schools. When a school is in want of books for sale or otherwise, a requisition on one of the government forms should be sent by the local committee to the secretary of the Board of Education, who will take the requisite measures for obtaining the necessary approval or correction of such requisition, and the books, &c., so obtained will be transmitted by the caretaker of the Stationery Office to the local committee at the expense of the local school fund; should, however, in particular cases, the carriage be required also to be found by the Local Government, the amount should be stated on the face of the requisition. In all cases the requisition should be accompanied by a detailed statement of the disposal of the last supply, and by the remittance to the secretary of the board of any funds derived from the sale of books. All requisitions should be made as much in advance as possible, and a statement of the probable requirements of the ensuing year should be sent previous to the 1st of March in each year. These last statements should include in all cases the list of the maps and other single requisites and books, then actually existing in the school, in order that a judgment may be formed of the requirements in these respects by the proper authorities.

School Libraries.

12. It is desirable as the system progresses, that school libraries be formed for adult education. It is hoped that the foundation of these shall be in all cases laid by private donations or subscriptions; it is confidently expected by the board that an annual sum, to be devoted to the purchase of the more expensive works requisite, will be annually voted by the Legislative Council. It is recommended that such sum be expended not merely in books, but in good engravings, models, statuettes; chemical, electrical, and other philosophical instruments. The board being convinced that without such and similar means of refinement and sound education, books alone can convey but an inadequate idea of the progress of science and civilization.

Teachers.

13. The board do not recommend in the present state of the colony a strict classification of teachers. But they would do so to a certain extent, and that the salaries should be proportioned to their acquirements; they would then recommend that 100*l.* at least should be given to a master able to teach the whole of the forms, but in cases of superior intelligence or success, they should be enabled to increase this amount to 150*l.*, together with house rent not exceeding 25*l.* per annum, or a suitable house. If competent to teach

* This does not prevent other parties from selling the same books.

WESTERN AUSTRALIA.

the three first forms thoroughly, together with portions of the requirements of the fourth and fifth, they would recommend that he receive at least 75*l.*, to be increased in particular cases to 100*l.* per annum, with 20*l.* per annum house rent, or a house. A good schoolmistress able to give the best education required by the board, is recommended to be placed in the same rank as the last mentioned. Teachers of either sex competent to teach the larger number of the requirements of the board in the three lowest forms, are recommended in cases of fixed salaries for not less than 40*l.*, nor more than 75*l.*, with 15*l.* house allowance, or a house. The above apply to unaided or first teachers of schools, who will receive in addition the whole of the fees derivable from the pupils. If the second master of a school is fit to teach the whole of the three first forms and music, the board recommend that a salary of from 60*l.* to 75*l.*, be allotted to him. If of a lower form from 40*l.* to 60*l.* In addition to the above it is recommended that pupil teachers be introduced in accordance with the following rule:—

Prizes.

14. An annual examination of proficiency shall take place in each school, for which it is hoped prizes will be provided from local resources. The first prize child in the third, fourth, and fifth forms shall, if reported qualified for the purpose, and if there be a vacancy in the number regulated for the school, be entitled to indenture him or herself to the first teacher of the school for a period of not less than three years. This pupil teacher, as he or she will be called, is to conduct the detail of the education of one of the lower forms of the school, under the inspection and direction of the first teacher, who will give him or her the best education in his or her power in full extension of the course laid down by the board. His Excellency will be requested to apply to the Legislative Council not only for salaries for the pupil teachers (not exceeding 18*l.* per annum for each), but also for funds to pay the teachers the amount of fees for the class in which the pupil is taught. Although free children are generally limited in their education to the first three forms, prize holders in the third form will if free be entitled to a free education in the fourth, and prize holders in the fourth to a similar advantage in the fifth, with the privileges allowed to pupil teachers.

Rules of Detail.

15. Drunkenness, or gross immorality, or cruelty of any description, will subject the teacher to immediate and disgraceful dismissal.

16. Teachers may be called on at any time to pass an examination by the General Board, failing in which they may be reduced in class, or they may lose their office or any aid they may receive through the board.

17. A visitor's book is to be kept in every school in a public place. Every visitor is to be courteously received by the teacher, but in no case to be allowed to interrupt the business of the school by audible observations or questions, without consent of the teacher. He may enter any observations in the book prepared for the purpose, and the teacher is to have the same privilege in the same book.* This rule does not apply to authorised inspectors when appointed by the General Board or the local committee, who may examine teachers or children to the extent of their authorization.

18. Three books should be kept by the teacher of every school, *i.e.*, a register of daily attendance, a register of payments, and a class book showing the conduct and position in school of each child.

19. A time table should be kept in each school on a board, showing what book or portion of book is in course of teaching at each school hour in each form. It will be found convenient to have them in the following form:—

	Hours.					
Classes	9 to 10	10 to 11	11 to 12	1 to 2	2 to 3	3 to 4
1						
2						
3						
4						
5						

The subject being written each day in chalk.

* This does not apply to salaried inspectors, but only to such as may from time to time be requested to report on the state of any particular school.

20. Political or other use of the school buildings, calculated to destroy the respect and kindly feeling due to its character, is strictly prohibited.

21. Married masters, or single mistresses, may take boarders, if they have proper accommodation, on their own terms.

Holidays.

22. The holidays are not to exceed one month in all in the year, this time being divided at the discretion of the local committee in each case. The ten usual colonial holidays are not to be included in this estimate. Extra single holidays may be granted at the discretion of the local committee.

W. A. SANFORD,
Chairman of General Board of Education.

Approved, CHARLES FITZGERALD.

NEW ZEALAND.

No. 36.

COPY of a DESPATCH from the OFFICER ADMINISTERING THE GOVERNMENT to the Right Honourable Sir GEORGE GREY Bart.

(No. 53.)

Government House, Auckland, New Zealand,
May 11, 1855.

SIR, (Received September 21, 1855.)

FINDING it utterly impossible (from the changes and alterations that have during the last eighteen or twenty months taken place in the various departments of the public service consequent on the introduction of the new constitution) to collect the necessary information to enable the Colonial Secretary to complete with accuracy the Blue Book even for the year 1853, I called upon that officer for such Returns as he could rely upon, as required by your Despatch No. 8, 13th January 1854, and in transmitting the same for your information I beg also to enclose a copy of a special explanation of the delay that may at first appear unnecessary, but which I trust may be satisfactorily accounted for by the incessant difficulties that have from time to time presented themselves.

These impediments are not likely to occur again; thorough and systematic arrangements having been made in every branch of the general and provincial governments, I feel satisfied the necessary information will for the future be punctually completed, and regularly transmitted within the period prescribed by the regulations.

I have, &c.
(Signed) R. W. WYNYARD,
Officer administering the Government.

The Right Hon. Sir George Grey, Bart.
&c. &c. &c.

Enclosure in No. 36.

Colonial Secretary's Office, Auckland,
March 29, 1855.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to lay before your Excellency the accompanying portions of the Blue Book for the year 1853, with copies of the returns that have been furnished for the remainder, and at the same time I beg leave to express my regret at having failed to obtain the necessary information, even up to the present late date, for its completion.

In explanation of the incompleteness of the Blue Book, and the delay that has occurred, I may state that in consequence of the changes which took place on the introduction of the new constitution in the year 1853, as well as from other causes, the returns required for its completion became more numerous and more complex than formerly, and they have, therefore, in some cases, been either not furnished at all or only in a very imperfect state, although applications to the several provincial governments, as well as to the officers of the general government concerned, have repeatedly been made for the information required.

NEW ZEALAND.

It will be seen on the examination of the returns that there is very little information respecting the provinces of Wellington and Otago. On the 14th ultimo the superintendent of the latter province represented that he had up to that date been unable to obtain the information required of him, though he expressed a hope he would soon have it in his power to furnish the returns both for the year 1853 and 1854. The superintendent of Wellington has also stated in a letter, dated 21st March last, that he found it would not be in his power to prepare the returns at all for the year 1853.

I have, &c.

(Signed) ANDREW SINCLAIR,
Colonial Secretary.

PART V.

EASTERN COLONIES.

PART V.—EASTERN COLONIES.

CEYLON.

No. 37.

CEYLON.

No. 37.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor Sir H. G. WARD, to the Right Honourable Lord JOHN RUSSELL.

Queen's House, Colombo, May 16, 1855.

MY LORD, (Received, July 7, 1855.)

THE period having arrived at which the returns designated as the Blue Book are usually transmitted to the Colonial Office, I have directed them to be forwarded, but without any accompanying despatch; this I shall take the liberty of submitting to your Lordship when I have been enabled to make myself better acquainted with the financial prospects of the colony, upon which I shall hardly consider myself competent to give an opinion for two or three months.

I have, &c.

The Right Hon. Lord John Russell, (Signed) H. G. WARD.
&c. &c. &c.

HONG KONG.

No. 38.

HONG KONG.

No. 38.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Lieut.-Colonel CAINE to the Right Honourable Lord JOHN RUSSELL.

(No. 79.)

Victoria, Hong Kong, June 9, 1855.

MY LORD, (Received, July, 1855.)

I HAVE the honour to forward the Blue Book for 1854, as transmitted to me by the Colonial Secretary, with his letter No. 302 of the 5th instant, to which I beg most particularly to call the attention of your Lordship.

I trust the state and prospects of the colony as shown therein will be satisfactory to Her Majesty's Government.

I have, &c.

(Signed) W. CAINE.

The Right Honourable Lord John Russell, M.P.,
&c. &c. &c.

Enclosure in No. 38.

Colonial Secretary's Office, Victoria,

SIR, Hong Kong, June 5, 1855.

I HAVE the honor to forward the Blue Book of Hong Kong for the past year 1854, and take the opportunity to note the great advance recently made by this colony.

2. The revenue for the year has amounted to 27,045*l.* 3*s.* 5¼*d.*, and the expenditure to 34,635*l.* 0*s.* 1*d.*; the revenue being in excess of that for 1853 by 2,344*l.* 17*s.* 1¾*d.*, and the table of expenditure showing a reduction of 1,713*l.* 11*s.* 11½*d.*

This result must be considered most satisfactory.

3. As regards military expenditure, the payments made by the Commissariat and Ordnance Departments are stated together at 41,540*l.* 11*s.* 10*d.*, being 8,805*l.* 19*s.* 7*d.* less than during the previous year.

4. The outlay on account of public works amounts to 5,238*l.* 12*s.* 7*d.*, of which 3,262*l.* 8*s.* 10½*d.* was expended on the new Government House, now close on its completion. The total amount is under that of last year by 633*l.* 11*s.*

The number of convicts at labour on the roads has exceeded that of 1853, and more work has consequently been obtained from them.

5. Six ordinances have passed the Legislative Council during the year; one to meet a temporary object by raising an additional police rate, another to

regulate the markets, and three having reference to the Supreme Court. The sixth respects the unclaimed balances of intestate estates, and is again under consideration of the Council.

With the exception of this last all have received Her Majesty's confirmation, as has a Regula Generalis, passed in November for increasing the number of criminal sessions of the Supreme Court, and reducing fees.

6. By the returns of the Registrar General it will be seen that a most remarkable increase has taken place in the Chinese population of the colony. In 1853, the Chinese numbered 37,536, in 1854 54,072. This increase is mainly referable to Victoria, and arises directly and indirectly from the confusion which has prevailed in the city of Canton and its neighbourhood, more particularly in the latter half of the year. The influx of people flying from the troubles that threatened the provincial city caused the direct addition to our numbers; and as amongst these were many tradesmen, business also came with them, and with increase of trade came further increase of population.

The Registrar General's Returns are of course exclusive of troops, and I may add that to the presence of these troops, though much reduced in number, is to be attributed the confidence with which, during the recent disturbances, the colony has been regarded.

7. The colonial surgeon's Report is interesting, and his remarks on the necessity of drainage and ventilation have already received consideration, but the habits of the Chinese render them difficult to be dealt with in these respects. Small pox seems to have been the principal scourge of the island during the past year, and I think it may be said that with this exception the climate is undoubtedly improved.

Page 305.

8. The Report of the Chinese Education Committee does not show a very satisfactory result, but the attention of Government is directed to the subject.

Page 305.

9. That the trade of the colony is largely increasing, the removal of so many mercantile firms to this place is a sufficient proof, and a glance at the harbour will show the great improvement in the extent and importance of the native trade.

It is, however, much to be regretted that the numerous piratical bands infesting the surrounding waters present a serious check to the further development of this branch of commerce.

10. An emigrant officer was appointed in May, and I believe the measure to have been attended with good effect. The efflux of Chinese to California and New South Wales, especially to Melbourne, still continues.

11. The number of Chinese and others who resorted, as above described, to Hong Kong during the year rendered it necessary to make provision for their habitation, and two sales of land by public auction were accordingly held.

The result of these is as follows:—Four acres for building lots have been leased; the annual rental on which due to Government amounts to 492*l.* 5*s.* 3*d.*, and the premium paid on the leases to 1,177*l.* 1*s.* 8*d.*

In the Surveyor General's letter, No. 18, of 28th March, which will be found in the Blue Book, and is well worthy of perusal and consideration, the necessity is shown of extending the city along the water in a western direction. As in that locality are to be found almost the only valuable spots now left for carrying on trade with facility, and as, should this ground not be disposed of, the town itself, especially in the Chinese part, will be unhealthily over-crowded, I would earnestly support Mr. Cleverley's recommendation that the land to the westward be planned forthwith for sale.

Surveyor General's Reports. 28th March 1855. Pages 298 and 301.

The nearer portion of the ground to which I allude has already been sold, and in the stagnant days of the colony was thrown back on the hands of Government; the further part has been occupied, but is now abandoned by the Naval Department, who have acquired a more convenient position in the centre of the town.

I see, therefore, no obstacle to the sale of this land as suggested, for if necessary a battery can be erected here, which will meet all the requirements of the Ordnance officers.

12. As regards crime, I learn from the Superintendent of Police that this has not, as might have been expected, increased in proportion with the augmented population. Still there is an increase as shown in the Gaol Returns, and a heavy expenditure is incurred on this account.

I am not aware of any further points demanding particular remark, but am convinced that a careful perusal of this book will induce considerable surprise

HONG KONG.

and satisfaction at the progress made by Hong Kong in 1854, and I am glad to be able to state that this progress does not to the present moment show any sign of relapse.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. S. MERCER.

The Hon. Lieut.-Colonel Caine, Lieutenant Governor.

Surveyor General's Office, Victoria,
March 28, 1855.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to submit my annual report upon public works in progress during the past year.

Buildings.

Government House, contrary to my expectation, is not yet complete, notwithstanding I have made every possible exertion to expedite the work. The contractor and his securities received notice that the bonds would be enforced if more active progress was not made, but they complained that it was impossible to obtain some materials unless at a most exorbitant rate, and others could not be obtained at all in consequence of the troubles in Canton, and the numerous hordes of pirates which infest the approaches, laying embargoes upon all Chinese vessels passing to and fro; in addition to which the difficulties of the contractor have been added to by the increased wages he has had to pay to labourers of all kinds, and this, coupled with his previous losses, as reported last year, has caused the great delay in the completion of the work. I have great satisfaction, however, in stating that although I have necessarily been obliged to dispense with much ornamental plaster work, as no gypsum has been procurable, the decoration of the building has been satisfactorily performed, and I am in every respect perfectly satisfied with the execution of the work.

The stables, kitchens, offices, and guard house, from the causes above enumerated, have been delayed in a similar manner. At the present date, however, the works have so far advanced that little is now required but painting, so that the whole premises will shortly be fit for occupation. Considerable advances have also been made towards the completion of the grounds and public roads, effected partly under Report and Estimate, No. 11, of 1853, and partly by convict labour, the planting and grassing being executed and charged to Report and Estimate, No. 1, of 1848. With the former of these two services delay has also occurred, as the greater portion of the trees required are necessarily procured out of the colony; fortunately, however, by the kindness of the proprietors I obtained a considerable supply by thinning some of their gardens, and these, although removed in winter and at an unfavourable time, have succeeded remarkably well, and but few have died in the immediate vicinity of the principal building. I have planted a sufficient quantity of trees and shrubs, and nothing now remains but to complete the grassing and planting on the slopes.

It was originally intended to have enclosed these grounds with a post and rail fence, but this was abandoned, and a rough stone wall has been erected instead, affording better protection and of imperishable materials at a cost of 235*l.* 4*s.* 10*d.* This wall embraces the whole area attached to the house, with the exception of a length of 140 feet up the slope of the embankment on the west side, and where the erection of a wall is impracticable. To effect the inclosure in that direction I propose to plant a thick hedge of prickly pear and bamboos, which will be quite sufficient protection. This embankment has been formed with considerable difficulty, it being no less than 80 feet in hight, and has consequently taken a considerable time to consolidate; it suffered materially during the early part of last year, but having grassed it over and prevented any flow of water thereon, its surface has been preserved from injury, and it is now assuming a green and secure appearance.

The works in laying down branch-pipes to the "main" for the supply of water to Government House has been in progress also, but I fear some extensive supplementary service must be effected to render the supply perfect at all times, for I perceive that there is insufficient water in the dry season (for four months) to keep the pipes from the tank to the barracks always full, and unless they are so the water is not forced through any of the ascending branches, so that it is absolutely necessary to adopt measures to remedy this, which must be done by the erection of another tank in some convenient locality, so as to collect the streams, say 80 feet vertical below the present tank, and connect it with the main, with suitable stopcocks to regulate the supply, render the scheme perfect, and, above all, to provide for a large demand in case of fire or other emergencies.

Under authority of Report and Estimate, No. 23, of 1853, two small school-houses for Chinese were erected, one in Hollywood Road, the other in the Wongneichung Valley. The site chosen for the former was on the side of the steep hill, so that one corner of the school had to be supported upon a retaining wall fourteen feet in height, the whole, however, resting upon the natural ground, and as I imagined a secure foundation. However, subsequently to a heavy fall of rain on the 28th May, when no less than nine inches fell, a settlement was observed in the north-west angle of the building, and on the same day a considerable slip of ground at the base of the hill occurred. On a careful examination of the surface I found it to be cracked in a variety of places, and with each succeeding

shower further slips occurred; these continued to advance until the 19th June, when a slip more extensive than the former so far injured the hill that no less than half an acre was ruptured in such a degree as to force over the retaining walls at its base, and destroy some premises adjoining, whereby one man was killed and others injured. This slip naturally affected the school-house, and in so great a degree that it was considered advisable to pull it down to save the materials; accordingly these were sold by auction on the 4th September, producing the sum of 41*l.* 13*s.* 4*d.*, and before the whole were removed the greater portion of the site was destroyed.

Arrangements were accordingly made for the prevention of further damage to the hill by the resumption of all the ground unbuilt upon so as to stop further cuttings at its base, and a report and estimate has been submitted for rendering it more permanently secure, and so as to save the upper part of Hollywood Road.

The debtors jail, Report and Estimate, No. 5, of 1851, was completed during the year, and I trust it will be considered useful, and supply all the wants such a building is required to provide for; expenditure amounted to 248*l.*, a balance, however, remained upon the contract amounting to 78*l.* 5*s.* which I have exacted as a fine for non-completion of the work according to the proper time; the contractor gave me the greatest possible trouble and tried every means in his power to scamp his work, but I am happy to say the whole as finished is as complete and substantial as I could wish.

The erection of the treadwheel under Report and Estimate, No. 5, of 1853, was completed during the year, and although the work was one of considerable difficulty, it acts remarkably well, and is easily regulated to suit one or ten men if placed upon it. The power is, however, applied to no useful purpose.

Police station at Wongneichung, Report and Estimate, No. 19, of 1853 was completed, it provides accommodation for three Europeans, six Indians, and one Chinese constable; it has been satisfactorily executed, and now that there is an almost certain prospect of a town springing up in the immediate vicinity, it is satisfactory to find that the position has been well chosen. Payment on this account was made amounting to 135*l.*

Boat-houses for the harbour master and police, Report and Estimate, No. 20, of 1833, which provided for the accommodation of the crews also was finished during the year, and payment of balance due was made amounting to 238*l.* 6*s.* 8*d.* This work has been satisfactorily performed, and I have no doubt it will be found suitable, and provide for all the present wants of the service.

The Post Office had a thorough repair during the year, under the authority of Report and Estimate, No. 22, of 1853, payments on account of which amounting to 132*l.* 1*s.* 1*d.* were made. The course of this repair and the mode of carrying it into effect were explained in my last report.

Trivial repairs to sundry Government buildings, amounting to 8*l.* 4*s.* 4*d.*, were made under Report and Estimate, No. 24.

At the town of Stanley, the police station was repaired, and the roof raised, and the whole better ventilated and drained, under the authority of Report and Estimate, No. 2, of 1854, for an expenditure of 20*l.* 16*s.* 8*d.*

Repairs to the magistracy were effected under Report and Estimate, No. 27, of 1853, amounting to 19*l.* 11*s.* 8*d.*

Upon some of the public roads, trees to a limited extent were planted, Report and Estimate, No. 1, of 1854, and payments made amounting to 15*l.*, this service is extended as circumstances appear to demand annually.

Upon the alteration which took place by placing a police instead of a military guard at the gaols, it became necessary to provide a kitchen, the latter guard not requiring one, it did not form part of the plan for the guard-house; the service was executed for 10*l.* 8*s.* 4*d.* under Report and Estimate, No. 8, of 1854.

Repairs to the police stations in Victoria, under Report and Estimate, No. 26, of 1853, amounted to 10*l.* 8*s.* 4*d.*

A variety of services, which, strictly speaking, are of a miscellaneous nature, I am obliged to charge either under the head of "construction" or "repair;" and under that of the former, for buildings account, I made payments amounting to 19*l.* 17*s.*, requisitions Nos. 2, 3, and 8 for protection to Government buildings, the purchase of flags, watchmen, coolie hire, &c.; under the latter head, upon requisitions Nos. 1, 5, 6, 9, 10, and 11, I made a variety of repairs to the following buildings:—Government offices, police stations, gaols and governor's residence,—amounting in the aggregate to the sum of 57*l.* 9*s.* 6*d.* Thus the total payment made on account of buildings, whether under construction or repair, amounted to the sum of 4,589*l.* 5*s.* 9½*d.*

Drains.

Under Report and Estimate, No. 12, of 1853, I constructed a drain on the steep slope of the hill from Government House Road to Albert Road, for the sum of 60*l.* This drain carries a large body of water from the upper level, and was intended to preserve the heavy embankment adjoining from injury by the fall of water over its surface. The service was effected with considerable difficulty, as it was made over treacherous soil, partly in cutting and partly in filling, and, as was anticipated, it received some damage before it was finally completed. It is placed at an angle of 60 degrees, and the velocity of the water is consequently excessive. I have reduced the quantity of water that formerly found exit there, and thus lessened the danger of failure.

HONG KONG.

Some covered drains in the Lower Bazaar, estimated at 51*l.* 9*s.* 7½*d.*, were commenced, and an expenditure under report and estimate made, amounting to 34*l.* 4*s.* 4½*d.*; but in consequence of the unconsolidated state of the new ground in which they were to be placed, I have not yet completed the service.

The Queen's Road, from the barracks to the Albany Godowns, extending over a length of 1,565 yards, had side channels placed thereto, at an expenditure of 166*l.* 5*s.* 11*d.*, by which the surface drainage has been materially improved, and the district much benefitted.

The total expenditure on account of drains for the year, amounted to 260*l.* 10*s.* 3½*d.*

Roads.

The road from Aberdeen Street to the Aberdeen Road, and on to the naval stores, commenced in September 1853, under Report and Estimate, No. 21, of 1853, was not completely finished at the termination of the year; for during the summer I found it impracticable to carry on the work, in consequence of the failure of some embankments, retaining walls, and drains; I accordingly thought it desirable to suspend the works, that the material might have time to consolidate. On the termination of the rains the work was proceeded with; but the contractor being unable to finish the work to my satisfaction, the balance unpaid upon the contract was exacted as a fine for non-completion of the works up to time, and authority given to me to expend it in the completion of the service, as well as to devote the balance due on the estimate to the further improvement of the drainage works in connexion therewith, as the experience of the rainy season showed that that was absolutely necessary for the preservation of the road.

The payments on account amounted to 143*l.* 6*s.* 8*d.*, leaving a balance of 73*l.* 10*s.* 2*d.* to be expended as above.

The Government portion of the sea wall in the Lower Bazaar, Report and Estimate, No. 3, of 1853, was completed during the year, and payments made to the amount of 131*l.* 9*s.* 2*d.* An unappropriated balance of 30*l.* remains upon the estimate, which I considered advisable to retain in hands for emergencies, as, from the nature of the foundation, I anticipated some degree of settlement; and this has actually occurred to the extent of two feet in depth in one place, where the water was no less than twelve feet deep at low tide. This settlement having now abated, I am enabled to bring the wall up to its intended level. In connexion with this work, and the remainder of the district, surface drains were commenced; but in consequence of the unconsolidated state of the material, I could not complete them. A payment of 5*l.* 5*s.* 11*d.* only was made on this head, under Report and Estimate No. 4 of 1853, leaving a balance of 22*l.* 6*s.* 2*d.* for the completion which is now in course of execution.

A small payment was made for work in the repair of the Queen's Road West, Report and Estimate, No. 15, of 1853; which service had been completed, however, before the termination of the year.

The Sukunpu Road was repaired during the year at a cost of 34*l.* 16*s.* 9*d.*, and has been kept in very good order during that period.

A balance due for the repair of the Coast Road to Quarry Bay, amounting to 8*l.* 4*s.* 2*d.*, was made during the year, together with the sum of 40*l.*, under Report and Estimate, No. 9, of 1854 for current repairs; the account for which is not closed. The road suffered but little injury from the heavy gales of the summer; the surface is in satisfactory order; and the drains perfect in every respect. The total expenditure under this head amounted to 367*l.* 2*s.* 8*d.*

Convicts.

Repairs to the plant or tools of the convicts were made for an expenditure of 20*l.* 13*s.* 1*d.* A very large amount of work, however, for this service has been performed by the convicts themselves within the gaol.

Convict Labour.

The labour performed by the convicts has been of the usual character in the formation and repair of roads, and has comprised the labour of 599 men in scavenging in the city, under the police on duty in some of the districts; in the repair of roads and streets, 6,263 men, and in the formation of roads to Government House, 6,125 men; in repairing and cleansing drains, 241 men; in removing materials from the Albany Godowns, for the purpose of making drains within the gaol, 378 men; and for services of a miscellaneous character, 1,346 men; forming a total of 14,952 men, the value of whose services I estimate as follows, at the rate of 5*d.* per day:—

			£	s.	d.
Scavenging	599	at 5*d.*	12	9	7
Construction of roads	6,125	„	127	12	1
Repairs to roads	6,263	„	130	9	7
Drains	241	„	5	0	5
Removing building materials	378	„	7	17	6
Miscellaneous	1,346	„	28	0	10
			£311	10	0

This amount of labour has been executed under my personal superintendence. Within the gaol, however, a far larger and less profitable number of men has been employed under the inspection of the gaoler; the labour, as far as it goes, is in some respects valuable. I obtained a large supply of broken stones for the repair of roads, and in this service the gaoler's return gives a total number 11,847 men; but the quantity of stone broken was very small indeed for that number; the stone available, however, was large, and consequently required considerable labour to break it to the size necessary for our roads.

The value of this labour I estimate at 120*l.*

	£	s.	d.
Cooks and water carriers amounted to 3,650 men, expressing a value of work, if performed by free labour, equal to	71	17	6
Picking oakum, 5,693 at 2*d.*	47	8	10
Carpenters and blacksmiths, 604 at 1*s.* 2*d.*	30	4	0
Breaking stones as above	120	0	0
	£369	10	4

So that no less than 21,794 men have been kept to hard labour within the gaol. The class of men confined for simple imprisonment, debt, those on the treadwheel, and the sick, amounted to 19,339, from whom no effective labour whatever has been derived.

The total value of labour as estimated by me as performed by convicts, is—

	£	s.	d.
Outside the gaol	311	10	0
Within the gaol	369	10	4
Total	£681	0	4

The coolies of the department, when not in attendance upon me in surveying or in other occupations, have had their labour turned to account as follows:—In planting trees, 494 days; in supervision of public works under contract or otherwise, 236 days; repairing roads, 20 days; clearing drains, &c., 158 days, and sundry services, 18 days, all of which work would otherwise have been obliged to be paid for, and consequently it may be presumed they have earned the value of their wages, which amounts to 37*l.* 10*s.* per annum.

Recapitulation of expenditure and value of services performed:—

Buildings				£	s.	d.
				4,589	5	9½
Drains				260	10	3½
Roads				367	2	8½
Convicts tools				20	13	1
Total expenditure				£5,237	11	10½
Convict labour	£681	0	4			
Department coolies	37	10	0	718	10	4
Actual value of all services				£5,956	2	2½

I have, &c.
(Signed) CHAS. ST. GEO. CLEVERLEY,
Surveyor General.

(True copy.)
W. SIMON,
Colonial Secretary.

Surveyor General's Office,
Victoria, March 28, 1855.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to submit my annual report upon the progress of my department for the year 1854 for the information of the honourable the Lieutenant Governor.

The supervision of Government House and the works in connexion with it occupied a very large share of my attention, and the extreme difficulty I have had with the contractor in forcing him to use more expedition and employ a greater number of men has been excessive; his pecuniary losses I believe, are considerable, and this coupled with the rise in the price of labour and of all building materials has added to his losses, and in a measure prevented the completion of the work; for instance, during the greater part of the year but little lime has reached the colony from the neighbourhood of Canton, and the supply has been made almost entirely from the kilns on the opposite Cowloon shore, and for which an exorbitant price was demanded.

Fortunately, before the blockade I obtained nearly all the marble tiles I required, the deficiency, however, I have supplied by slate and stone. The earthenware railings for

HONG KONG.

the verandah I am still unable to get from Fushan, where such articles are made, and I have totally failed in procuring gypsum for the fine mouldings and enrichments of the cornices and ceilings; thus I have been obliged to alter the designs in a material degree, which I much regret. However the work, slowly as it has progressed, is admirably executed, and is perhaps as perfect a building as can be erected in China.

Unfortunately, at a time when I required the most efficient superintendence, the sappers attached to the department were ordered home, and at the end of August I was deprived of their services altogether. The want of these men I have felt greatly, particularly in all plumbers and bellhangers work (at which the Chinese are very deficient), so that my personal superintendence upon each particular piece of work during its execution was rendered absolutely necessary, and thus occupied my time for several hours of the day occasionally.

The supply of water to Government House and offices was originally undertaken by the Royal Engineers' department, and transferred to me to complete, but unfortunately the pipes delivered for the service were insufficient; nor were there any stopcocks, fireplugs, or suitable curved pieces or junctions such as were estimated for and required, and as these cannot be made here in a satisfactory or substantial manner, the difficulties in executing the work have been very great indeed; however, no doubt the service when complete will answer effectually; but before it can do so some further works are necessary to increase the supply of water or prevent waste at the barracks; this, however, must form the subject of a special report and estimate, as I am afraid the balance of the estimate for that service will be insufficient, as nothing but a supplementary tank will provide for the deficiency.

As regards the supply of water to the gaol also similar difficulties occurred, and it was by a mere accident that I obtained a supply of iron pipes such as I required, but the stopcocks I was obliged to cast in copper, and attach lead pipes for turns and junctions in situations where only iron should be used; indeed throughout the whole the difficulties have been greater than could be imagined by an unprofessional person, from the want of those materials which, had I had time, might have been procured from England.

The principal tanks situated in Mr. Lyall's grounds are at an elevation sufficient to command all the streets in the town, and when the pipes as demanded from England arrive, they may be laid down immediately as proposed for the conduct of water in case of fire; in connexion with this service I should be happy to commence the other tanks proposed in various places in the city for the storage of water, but not having the proper pipes to build into them for supply and exit, and there being no cement in the city either, the service cannot be further proceeded with at present.

The want of water in the whole of the city during the dry season is very great indeed, and as the population increases and the drainage becomes more rapid and effective, this deficient supply is more apparent and severely felt, so that at no distant period I imagine it will be incumbent upon the Government to collect the streams west of the city for the use of the dense population in the Lower Bazaar and Tappingshan, as in the former district well water cannot be used for domestic purposes, and in the latter the tenants are unable to afford pecuniary means to construct them so as to be generally useful to the community.

Some works for the drainage of parts of the Queen's Road, Eastern District, were carried into effect, and although the general intention was merely to provide for the discharge of rain water, the drains have been used for purposes to which only covered sewers are applicable, and this being the case it is not surprising if, during the dry season particularly, the filthy deposit from the Chinese houses should become most offensive; again, in places where the police compel the tenants to sweep the drains in front of their houses, the evil resulting from that is perhaps in the end worse than the former, for they invariably deposit the refuse sweepings of their shops, wood shavings, masticated sugarcane, and rubbish of every possible kind, into the small drains in connexion with the sewers, so that they become blocked up, and when they are most required they are inefficient.

This practice I have in vain tried to rectify, and until a more stringent and summary process is made legal the evil will not be abated.

As regards the drainage of the lower bazaar, about which complaints have been made, the causes enumerated above refer in a more remarkable degree, for there the streets are perfectly level; the whole area has been reclaimed from the sea, and the drains are all built upon unconsolidated ground, and settlements occur which I have rectified as soon as possible; but the great cause of mischief to the drainage here lately has resulted from the practice of discharging rubbish over the sea-wall, and to this the attention of the police has repeatedly been drawn; but as the "force" is small the practice has not been abated in any degree that I can perceive, and it is with the utmost difficulty I have been enabled to keep the drains free, as when once the mouth of the drain is blocked up the deposit accumulates to such a degree that nothing but its removal by hand is of any avail; it being understood that there is in all the drains in the whole district of Victoria an insufficient quantity of water passing through them, there is no means at my disposal for flushing them periodically, and it is only in the height of the rainy season that this is effectually done by the flood water.

Thus, whatever may be the appearance of the town and whatever may be the apparent

defects in portions of its drainage, it must not be placed to insufficient construction, but to the causes enumerated above; and when these are remedied, and the filthy customs of the Chinese are in some degree abated, that district thickly as it is populated may become as clean as any other in the city. I must, however, remark that with the increased number of buildings, increased drainage is demanded as well as a more perfect construction of streets, some of which, although having houses therein, have never been drained or even formed; this, however, the Hon. the Lieutenant Governor has taken into consideration, and I am at this date preparing reports and estimates for the whole of such services as I consider imperatively necessary for the improvement and health of the city; and I trust they will be carried into effect now that the prosperity of the colony is increasing so rapidly.

During the year two land sales have been held, comprising an area of four acres, producing a rental of 492*l.* 5*s.* 3*d.*, and premium 5,650 dollars; and as only six small lots were resumed during the year, yielding an aggregate rental of 23*l.* 9*s.* 5*d.*, the rent roll amounted to 11,250*l.* 6*s.* 1½*d.*

It was apparent, however, at the termination of the year, that the demand for land was steadily increasing, and this has been fully proved by the result of subsequent sales.

It is a question now of very considerable importance, in which direction to extend the city; there is little or no really available ground for the erection of such houses as the Chinese require in the rear of the city, as the ground is so steep, and thus the extension of the city westwards is what I most strenuously advocate, as it gives us a more extended sea frontage, which is of such vast importance, and in its rear is a large vacant area of 100 acres, and though rough and rocky is of suitable inclination for streets, and in no way inferior to the space upon which the present city is erected. Unfortunately, however, the proposed erection of a battery at the west end of the city interferes with this scheme, which I much regret, as I feel convinced an equally suitable site for a battery is obtainable, viz., at the old battery at the naval stores; it was the point originally determined upon for the defence of the western entrance to the harbour, and if such a work is really required I confess I should prefer seeing it erected there, as from its position it would command not only the entrance referred to but have an extensive range of the harbour to the eastward; whereas the battery in its present position has a mass of houses on its immediate right, and is thus prevented from employing its fire in that direction; however, this is a subject for the consideration of the Government.

Should this area not be devoted to the extension of the city, my attention has been turned to the necessity of concentrating it; and with this view I think it desirable to make a further addition, by the reclamation of the ground from the sea in front of the Bonham Strand, and to cut down the hill called Possession Point. This hill stands on a base of about 300 feet square; and the whole of this space is occupied by one single house—a police station. By the removal of the hill, accommodation might be provided for upwards of a hundred houses; and with the extension of the land seawards, an additional frontage of 1,800 feet is obtained, which would give in a double row 240 houses, or 340 houses in all—giving accommodation to at least 3,000 Chinese. The hill would be cut down for nothing; the former area would be sold by auction, and an assessment would fix the rate for permission to the tenants to extend their frontages, and occupy the latter.

If neither of these plans can be carried into effect, measures must be adopted for the establishment of a town east of the Albany Godowns. A portion of this area I have attempted to sell on two occasions, but with no satisfactory result. A few houses are built in the neighbourhood, but are occupied by boat builders, and people of no wealth or benefit to the colony.

On this area, however, the Lieutenant-Governor proposes to form the necessary streets preparatory to the next land sale, and this service also engages my attention.

The duties of the department, in carrying into effect the public works during the year, are fully set forth in my report upon that subject.

Within the office I had, in consequence of the absence on leave of the accountant and clerk of deed registry, nearly the same difficulties to contend against as reported last year. Mr. Reinhard, who then held the acting appointment, was removed to the Treasury on the 30th April, and until the month of October I had merely the services of a young lad who had never been in any office before, and however willing he might have been to execute his duties in such a satisfactory manner as he or I could wish, was unable to do so; neither his education nor abilities permitted it. I cannot, however, but express my satisfaction at the desire he always evinced to comply with the requirements of the office and accede to all my wishes.

At this period Mr. Power, the regular clerk, arrived and resumed his duties; the arrears he had to bring up were very considerable, as indeed in the keeping of the office books I was obliged merely to post up such services as were actually necessary, and keep all the current work distinct therefrom, as with such a variety of changes as I had during Mr. Power's absence it was impossible to effect the work with any accuracy or satisfaction. To execute this service, and at the same time carry on the ordinary increasing work of the office, was a task by no means inconsiderable, and I have now, as in all former reports, to express my entire approbation of his conduct.

The transactions in land, as registered in the office, are as follows:—49 memorials of absolute sale of property, affecting 57 lots; 14 memorials affecting mortgages on 25 lots;

HONG KONG.

8 assignments affecting 11 lots; 2 judgments of Supreme Court; in the whole 73 memorials referring to 93 lots, being ten more than were registered last year.

The fees for the above registries as received amounted to 108*l.* 15*s.*, and fees for the issue of leases to 49*l.* 7*s.* 6*d.*

In the month of June the burial ground was again placed under my charge, with Mr. Buchan as secretary, at the usual salary.

A new scale of fees was also established on the 2d December 1854, as published in the Gazette, and for the whole year the total amount due for 122 interments and the erection of four monuments amounted to the sum of 119*l.* 16*s.* 8*d.*

The Chinese overseer and four coolies (one being a messenger or office coolie) attached to the department performed their usual avocations to my entire satisfaction; the labour of three of them, when not in direct attendance upon me, is fully set forth in my Report upon Public Works. I find their services of much value, and indeed absolutely necessary to enable me to execute the duties of my office unassisted as I am by any competent European. The overseer is now well instructed in all operations in surveying and in such like operations; and his duty is to report such services as are required to the roads or public works, and bring to my notice such encroachments or other irregularities as may be perceived by him, as well as to give a daily report of number of men employed on all public works, whether under contract or otherwise, including that of the convicts both within and without the gaol walls.

The supervision of the convicts labour has, as usual, been performed by me, and as the amount of their work has been reported on, I have but to remark that I consider it would be more advantageous to the public service if the sentences of the magistrates to hard labour within the gaol were considerably reduced, as that class do not perform such effective service as those employed on the roads. I require a large amount of broken stone certainly, but if this service was performed by task-work I am convinced that one-half of those working inside the gaol last year would have broken as much stone as the whole number, and thus placed at my disposal the labour of at least 5,000 men; since the commencement of the year this has been rectified as far as possible.

The serjeant of the guard, Antonio Mathews, over the convicts on the roads acts as their overseer, has given much satisfaction, and exerts himself to make them perform as much work as possible, and he is improving in the knowledge necessary for the repair or formation of the roads or works he is directed to execute.

I have to report that in consequence of the stringent measures instituted against Mr. Duddell, he proceeded to comply with the terms upon which the market had been granted to him, which consisted in the reclamation of ground from the sea, the construction of a sea-wall, and the erection of a police station, &c., and suitable buildings for the market, none of which services had been carried into effect, to the great inconvenience of the public, but as he is now proceeding with much vigour it is probable he may finish the work in the time set forth in his bond.

I regret to have to allude to the still prevailing practice of burning the brushwood on the hills; it causes incalculable mischief to the whole island, stops the growth of all indigenous trees, and I need hardly say detracts in no inconsiderable degree from the natural beauty and picturesqueness of the districts.

The preservation of the trees, whether planted by Government for the general good, or the natural growth of the island, I conceive should be specially the duty of the police or the tepos of the localities in which these fires annually occur; it perhaps would be impossible to catch the men in the act, but as it is well known who are the parties who do the damage, if they were properly warned as to the consequences, and two or three severe punishments inflicted for removing the charred or burnt brushwood, the evil would be corrected in one season; the healthiness of the island consequent upon the steady increase of vegetation would be materially improved and the temperature considerably reduced.

In the early part of the summer my health suffered very materially from a most peculiar eruptive fever, which confined me to the house for upwards of a month. I attribute this, the only severe sickness I have had during my residence in Hong Kong, to carelessness in exposing myself to the sun, notwithstanding my experience of its danger. I regret to say, however, that each succeeding summer produces its ill effects upon my constitution, for during my service of nearly twelve years in this climate, I have never obtained leave of absence to England, and but once for a period of six weeks to Shanghae; and thus it is perhaps surprising that I should have had such equable health or have been so seldom unable to do my work, considering my duties so frequently call me to perform services out of doors, and with frequent exposures to the sun which no other officer of Government ever has to undertake.

I have, &c.
(Signed) S. G. CLEVERLEY,
Surveyor General.

(True Copy.)
W. MERCER,
Colonial Secretary.

REPORT of CHINESE EDUCATION COMMITTEE.

SIR, Victoria, Hong Kong, February 16, 1855.

IN compliance with the instructions of the Hon. the Lieutenant Governor contained in your letter No. 406 of December 19, 1854, we have the honour to forward the following report of the Government schools during the past year.

These schools are still five in number: no increase has been made though applications have been forwarded for the establishment of elementary schools in other localities. The school accommodation provided by Government is therefore sufficient for one hundred and fifty children only, and from the returns of the Registrar General we estimate that in private native schools about two hundred and fifty children are under instruction.

The number of Chinese children within the colony is eight thousand eight hundred and sixty-eight, and the amount spent by Government in education during the past year was 124*l.* 7*s.* 11*d.* sterling.

The average attendance at the Government schools was one hundred and twelve. The Victoria school had thirteen more than its complement; the Wongneichoong school two less; and the others, situated in the out villages, many less. The emolument of the schoolmaster fluctuates with the number of his scholars, while this remains below thirty; above that number, the master has no interest in the increase of pupils.

The Wongneichoong schoolhouse is the only one which is at all suited for its purpose; the rest are hired rooms, most dirty to behold, and most unpleasant to visit.

English is taught in two schools by two Chinese lads, whose united remuneration is five pounds a year. The subjects of instruction are similar to those mentioned in our last report.

Under the present aspect of affairs education in Hong Kong, as aided by Government, may be pronounced at almost its lowest ebb. It has neither the means of present good nor the elements of future advantage. It has neither suitable buildings, suitable masters, nor suitable supervision. As the Government has expressed no intention of originating an efficient scheme and voting the requisite funds, it does not lie within our province to do more than report upon what now exists; and for the improvement of this we think indispensable, first, the building of suitable school houses; secondly, the establishment of paid apprentice teachers; thirdly, the appointment in each school capable of enlargement of an assistant schoolmaster, with a knowledge of the English language, receiving a salary of not less than twenty dollars a month; fourthly, the appointment of an inspector to pay at the least weekly visits to each school, and report to the committee the results of each visit.

We have, &c.
(Signed) G. VICTORIA,
C. B. HILLIER,
JAMES LEGGE,
M. C. ODELL,
Committee for superintending Chinese Education.

(True copy.)

The COLONIAL SURGEON'S REPORT for 1854.

Topography and Climate, &c.

THE nature of the climate and topographical description of Hong Kong require no remark, both having been (I presume) fully detailed in former reports; nor is there now any occasion to describe the position of the several police stations, with the accommodation of each, such being already well known to the authorities.

Hospital.

The hospital situated at the corner of Graham Street, and for some years past in use, was shortly after my appointment as colonial surgeon removed to the present building, as I considered that it did not afford the necessary accommodation, and was further deficient in ventilation and drainage, all of which essential requisites the present building possesses.

Fevers.

The prevalent diseases during the year have been, as usual, fever and bowel complaint. The intermittent fever of this colony is most pertinacious in its attack, any individual having once suffered being liable to a recurrence of the disease, until the constitution is completely sapped and the patient reduced to a state of the most distressing debility. The remittent fever is less frequent but more fatal; it is often the result of the former, but by no means invariably so. During the year many cases occurred, but with the exception of a few fatal ones the disease was amenable to treatment. During the months of October and November the fever of the cold season (an obscure remittent) has been unusually prevalent, difficult to check, and the convalescence slow. This class of disease generally lays the foundation of some organic affection of the abdominal viscera, especially the spleen

HONG KONG.

and the liver, the former of which is almost invariably more or less affected, and that after comparatively mild attacks of the primary disease; under such circumstances, no perfect recovery can be expected while the patient remains in the colony.

Hepatic Affections

Have been of a much milder character than last year, and not so prone to run into abscess.

Bowel Affections

Are extremely common in this climate, and, however mild at first, soon assume a most tedious and intractable character. Dysentery, acute and chronic, has in some instances resulted fatally, but the total number and proportionate mortality have been under the annual average. Nothing but change of climate, and that immediate, holds out any hope of restoring the patient's health; but this being in most instances impracticable, the obvious consequence is a large mortality from the disease. Diarrhœa has been very prevalent. Stomatitis has in many instances accompanied it, and been frequent as a separate disease. The chlorate of potash combined with vegetable tonics has invariably cured it.

Pulmonary Affections,

Though not frequent, are still to be met with. This climate, from the frequent and sudden changes of temperature which take place during the cold season, often within a few hours, and the vast disparity between the general temperature of summer and winter, is particularly illfitted for persons with any tendency to disease of the lungs, and fatal to those in which it actually exists.

Rheumatism

In the acute form has also prevailed. Speedy relief has generally been obtained by the local application of leeching, and large doses of the iodide of potass internally.

The juvenile portion of the community, hitherto almost entirely exempt from the prevailing diseases, has suffered to an unusual extent from fever and, one of its most painful and trying sequelæ, boils, the irritation and pain of which are sufficient to test the equanimity of the most stoical. They have also suffered much from intestinal worms and diseases directly produced by the irritation of these parasites in the alimentary canal. On the whole the amount of sickness and mortality may be considered under that of last year. Dnring the hot season, although it set in with much illness, and the range of the thermometer in July was higher than has been noticed for several years, yet no unusual mortality resulted. The increase of sickness during the last three months of the year has been undoubtedly owing to the high range of temperature at mid-day, with the absence of rain.

Small Pox.

The frequent occurrence of epidemics of small pox is a matter urgently calling for the interference of Government. This scourge has again appeared in the island, caused not by any sporadic or isolated cases of the disease, but by the obstinate adherence of the Chinese so-called medical practitioners to inoculation. Of the value of vaccination as a preventative, it is needless for me to urge anything in support. The application of the law of England to this island, prohibiting inoculation of small pox matter under a penalty, would soon put an end to those outbreaks of a pestilence, so dangerous to the whole community, European and native.

Veneeal Affection

Is here of frequent occurrence, and often of a most virulent character. To check the disease in this colony some prophylactic measure is essentially required; but knowing as I do that the present active and zealous Acting Attorney General is preparing a special ordinance on the subject, I lay therefore this important sanitary improvement in his able hands.

Having now given a short summary of the chief diseases of the colony, I shall advert to topics which I consider to be of very great and vital importance, namely, sewerage, drainage, ventilation, and cleanliness; and I do so the more particularly from the very great influx of Chinese, and consequent increase of buildings.

Having carefully examined the streets, lanes, and several of the dwellings of the poorer classes (natives) in Victoria, with a view to sanitary improvement, I beg to submit the following remarks; however, before so doing, I must express my regret that Hong Kong should present so much filth and so many nuisances, the more especially as its site is in many respects well adapted for drainage and sewerage. In carrying out my assertions, it will be only necessary for me to report on the Taipingshan district. The lanes (certainly not streets) are in a most objectionable state, containing almost invariably cowsheds, pigsties, stagnant pools, the receptacles of every kind of filth, all which nuisances have remained unheeded for a considerable time. In this district are two large open

drains, which are at all times most offensive. These drains receive all the refuse of the district through which they pass, and being open through most of their course (excepting when they cross a road) filth of all sorts is thrown into them, and necessarily evaporates deleterious gases from their entire surface. The premises situated at the west end of the Hollywood Road are in a filthy state, and great complaints are made of the offensive effluvia (dripping through the walls) by almost every European passer-by.

The great want of privies and suitable depots for dirt is observable everywhere the native population reside. Nothing can be more offensive than the laying out to dry of large quantities of manure on small patches of ground in the rear of this locality, and in many instances adjoining the upper or Western Road, the emanations from which not only interfere with the pleasantness of a walk much frequented by the inhabitants of Kong Kong, bnt must be sources of annoyance to those living in the adjacent neighbourhood. I am, therefore, of opinion that Victoria is in need of drainage and sewerage, of better paving and scavenging.

2. That the dwellings of the natives are faulty in construction, being erected apparently with the view of having the greatest number in the smallest possible space, and without any regard to ventilation and drainage.

3. That disease prevails most where the dwellings are overcrowded, and where little if any attention is paid to cleanliness, ventilation, and drainage.

4. That the inhabitants of lanes and other crowded localities be compelled to whitewash their dwellings at least twice a year, and to make free use of water upon the pavements and channels every morning.

5. That the absence of sanitary measures in Hong Kong leads to the development and dissemination of disease. It is well known that damp and dirt, nuisance of all kinds, and particularly animal and vegetable matter in a state of decomposition, are circumstances that favour the propagation of disease; whatever renders the atmosphere impure impairs the health and predisposes the body to disease, and when numbers of sick are crowded together in close, dirty, and unventilated rooms, disease spreads with virulence and malignity.

I shall conclude these few remarks by a statement of Dr. Arnott:—" Aerial movements " are to man what the constant gliding past of a clear river stream is to fishes which " inhabit it; and as certainly as we should destroy the trout of a stream by confining them " in a small portion of the watery element until it became a dirty puddle, so should we " destroy or injure human beings when we too closely confine around them a portion of " the aerial element."

(Signed) J. Carroll Dempster, M.D.,
Colonial Surgeon.

LABUAN.

No. 39.

Copy of a DESPATCH from Governor Scott to the Right Honourable Lord John Russell.

(No. 6.)

Government House, Labuan,
June 26, 1855.

My Lord,

(Received, September 6, 1855.)

I have the honour to forward the Blue Book of this colony for the past year. It has been delayed beyond the usual period from the treasurer having been unable to furnish, at an earlier date, a statement of the revenue and expenditure, in consequence of the agents at Singapore having omitted to forward their accounts with this government for the last quarter of the year.

2. I have endeavoured to confine the expenditure, in accordance with instructions, to the lowest possible amount, and to disbursements absolutely necessary.

3. I regret that the local revenue has fallen short of the amount I had anticipated in the annual estimates for the year by a sum of 627*l*. This deficiency will be found under the head of royalty on coals; the company working the mines having failed to excavate the 12,000 tons I had reckoned upon. In the previous year 1853, they excavated and paid royalty upon 8,108 tons, in 1854 only 5,545 tons. In my former despatches I have always had occasion to complain of the tardy operations of the company; it is right, therefore, that I should now explain that I do not attribute their short-comings to any want of exertion on their part, but rather to the unfortunate and sudden death of their resident engineer and director at a time he was actively engaged in carrying on works necessary for a more extensive working of the mines, and

LABUAN.

to the consequent long time the mines remained without proper supervision before his successor arrived from England.

4. I regret to report that the depredations which the Illanun pirates annually commit along the coast of Borneo to the north of Labuan have been greatly extended. Formerly they did not cruise nearer than Meng Kabong, but during the past year they ventured to the south of Labuan, and attacked prahus within a few miles of us, and for a time put a stop to all native trade. It has always been a source of regret to me that the withdrawal of all naval force from Labuan has given increased audacity to these pirates, and permitted them to carry on with impunity their cruelties on the unoffending natives of peaceable trading rivers.

5. During the past year fever and ague has been somewhat prevalent, but the general healthiness of the settlement has not been unfavourable.

I have, &c.

The Right Hon. Lord John Russell, &c. &c. &c.

(Signed) J. SCOTT.

FALKLAND ISLANDS.

No. 40.

FALKLAND ISLANDS.

No. 40.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor RENNIE to the Right Honourable Sir GEORGE GREY Bart.

(No. 9.)

Government House, Stanley, Falkland Islands, January 31, 1855.

SIR,

(Received, April 13, 1855.)

THE Blue Book of this colony, which I have the honour to enclose, exhibits a continuance of the progressive improvement which has prevailed during the last five years.

2. The exports in 1852 only reached to about 8,000*l*; in 1853 to 14,500*l*., and in the year just ended may be estimated at nearly 19,000*l*; the imports in those years respectively were 16,000*l*., 19,000*l*., and 21,000*l*; the balances being met by bills on Her Majesty's Treasury, on account of the sums voted by Parliament in aid of the local revenue, payment of pensions by the War Office, and specie imported by settlers.

3. The general revenue shows only a small increase of 67*l*., but the net expenditure has been 540*l*. less than that of 1853. Notwithstanding this reduction, I have been enabled to defray the colonial charge of the permanent guard of enrolled pensioners, amounting to 80*l*., and likewise the cost (90*l*.) of the construction of a wooden house required for the accommodation of the lighthouse keeper at Cape Pembroke, neither of these items having been included in my estimate.

4. I have to report the completion of the iron lighthouse, and on the arrival of the keeper from England it will be illuminated. I trust that this important work may prove a great benefit to shipping of all nations, and a source of prosperity to the colony, indicating, as it will, by night and day, the situation of Stanley Harbour, the only inhabited port of refuge in the great track of communication between the Eastern and Western hemispheres.

5. The measures which are about to be taken by Her Majesty's Government for the more effectual protection of the fisheries around the coasts of these islands from depredation by foreigners give me good reason to hope that the settlers will not be wanting in enterprise to derive advantages from their improved prospects in those pursuits.

6. The colony is abundantly supplied with all the necessaries and many of the luxuries of life. From various causes, however, prices have risen from 20 to 30 per cent., which, with the increased income tax, presses rather heavily on the officers of the local Government, whose salaries are very limited.

7. Labour is in good demand, artizans earning from 6*s*. to 12*s*. per diem; unskilled workmen, 4*s*. to 7*s*. In cases of salvage from wrecks, or urgent repairs of ships, double these wages are occasionally obtained. The operatives are

thus enabled to provide themselves with every reasonable comfort, and in many cases to lay aside considerable sums of money; nor is it any exaggeration to say, that a stranger seeing them on holidays with their families might doubt whether there are (judging from their dress) any working people in the colony. Pauperism is entirely unknown.

8. Having now exceeded the usual period of a colonial Governor's appointment, and being on the eve of departure, it gives me much satisfaction to be able to adduce some confirmation of the opinions I formerly expressed, of the capabilities of these islands. When it is considered that up to the year 1850 the few inhabitants subsisted on ship-of-war rations sent annually from England, —that there was neither cultivation nor trade,—that the climate and soil were sufficiently bad to deter the usual class of emigrants from resorting to them, their only resource consisting of a few wild cattle (for the fisheries had been nearly destroyed),—the progress which has been made during the last four years proves that the Falkland Islands have great advantages and utilities, from their geographical position, which are susceptible of development, and the energy of the settlers gives me favourable anticipations of continued improvement. I have only to add, that the benefits which are secured to British commerce by this possession (in my opinion) repay the grants of Parliament expended on the establishment of the colony.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GEORGE RENNIE.

The Right Hon. Sir George Grey, Bart., G.C.B.,
&c. &c. &c.

PART VI.

MEDITERRANEAN POSSESSIONS.

MALTA.

No. 41.

MALTA.

No. 41.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor Sir WILLIAM REID to Lord PANMURE.

(No. 65.)

Palace, Valletta, May 30, 1855.
(Received, June 15, 1855.)

MY LORD,

I HAVE the honor to transmit herewith the Blue Book for the Year 1854, together with a copy of a statement by the Auditor General upon the revenue, expenditure, and financial condition of Malta and its dependencies during that year.

I have, &c.
(Signed) WILLIAM REID,
Governor.

The Right Hon. Lord Panmure, K.T.,
&c. &c. &c.

The AUDITOR GENERAL'S STATEMENT of the Financial Condition of Malta, to accompany the Blue Book for the Year 1854.

Revenue.

The following view is offered of the gross revenue of Malta received during the five years immediately preceding the one to which the present statement relates:—

1849	-	£126,298	Yearly average, £127,941
1850	-	129,293	
1851	-	133,080	
1852	-	127,718	
1853	-	123,305	
Fractions		1	

2. During the year 1854 the gross collection of revenue amounted to 123,771*l*., being 4,170*l*. less than the before stated average; and though it somewhat exceeded the collection of 1853, it cannot be viewed, on the score of regular income, in a favourable comparison with that year, which was less aided by extraordinary branches than were brought to account in 1854. This will be seen in the following comparison of the proceeds derived from the undermentioned sources—

	1853.	1854.
Land sales - - - -	£ 1,879	£ 3,789
Sale of Government property -	270	2,205
Proceeds of unclaimed effects -	—	345
Agio on specie - - -	—	673
	£ 2,149	£ 7,012

More in 1854 - - £ 4,863

3. Of these receipts, the sales in 1854 include 3,639*l*. for certain building sites at Floriana, previously waste ground, the proceeds to be applied to the expense of removing individuals from tenements occupied by them in parts of the lines of fortification, and 1,800*l*. from the Ordnance department, for a large building at Floriana, hitherto occupied in the service of the public schools, and to be replaced by a new building for schools, now in the course of erection out of the money acquired from the sale of the former building.

4. On the other hand it is to be noted, that the collection of rents for 1854 has suffered a deduction of 1,154*l*. for balance of abatements made in consideration of the loss sustained by the tenants from the failure in the native harvest of 1853, against the rents of which year as much only of the loss

could be classed as found room in the uncollected portions of rent, leaving the balance over for adjustment against rents afterwards to fall due. Hence the revenue of 1854 is to be considered 1,154*l.* better, and that of 1853, 1,154*l.* worse, than is shown by the collections made within the respective years.

5. The place in which the principal cause of decrease in the revenue is to be seen is the customs, the receipts of which are 5,447*l.* less than 1853. Such cause is the continued dearness of corn, which has transferred much of the consumption from wheat, subject to the higher rate of import duty, to barley, on which the lower rate is levied, and has also greatly reduced the consumption of wine among the labouring classes, with the consequent loss of import duty on the article.

6. In the Courts of Law the receipts have been 889*l.* above those of 1853, consequent upon increased business.

Expenditure.

7. In the general estimate of expenditure, prepared in 1853, for the service of the year 1854, a provision of 128,086*l.* 16*s.* 1*d.* was made. To this was added a balance of 22,246*l.* 1*s.* 0¼*d.* remaining unexpended at the end of 1853 from the provision on previous estimates; and in the course of 1854 supplemental appropriations were made to the amount of 3,958*l.* 3*s.* Besides these, 1,800*l.* were obtained from the sale of a building, and 3,639*l.* 0*s.* 2*d.* from the sale of building site, respectively applicable to the services already described in noticing the revenue. In all, 159,730*l.* 0*s.* 3¼*d.* at disposal for expenditure.

8. The total sum actually disbursed within the year out of this provision was 141,303*l.* 15*s.* 10*d.* (being 6,270*l.* more than the outlay of the previous year), 1,495*l.* 13*s.* 3¼*d.* have been written off as unavailed of or saved, and 16,930*l.* 11*s.* 2*d.* remain for future outlay.

Financial Condition.

9. A further detail than what has been here given will be found in the comparative statements of revenue and expenditure as prepared by the Auditor General.

10. The year closed with the following state and liabilities of the island treasury:—

State of the treasury of Malta, 31st December 1854.

		£	*s.*	*d.*	£	*s.*	*d.*
Effects -	cash -	49,368	12	3¾	76,987	11	3¾
	advances -	27,618	19	0			
Debts - -	deposits	-	-	-	46,718	11	10¾
	Surplus capital -				30,268	19	5
Liabilities:—							
The revenue of December, reserved to meet the expenditure of that month payable in January 1855 - -		8,507	17	1¾			
The portion of expenditure remaining undefrayed, as already stated -		16,930	11	2			
					25,438	8	3¾
	Available surplus				£4,830	11	1¼

Audit Office, Valletta,
April 23, 1855.

(Signed) W. H. Thornton,
Auditor General.

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT of the estimated Revenue of Malta for the Year 1854, with the Revenue received in that Year, as shown by the Accounts made up from the 1st January to the 31st December 1854.

Heads of Revenue.	Amounts. Estimated.	Amounts. Received.	Above the Estimate.	Below the Estimate.	Remarks.
Customs—	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	
Import Duties -	81,888 0 0	69,991 11 1	- - -	11,896 8 11	Compared with the receipts in 1853, the decreases under these three heads are respectively 4,626*l.* 18*s.* 2*d.*, 370*l.* 2*s.* 6*d.*, and 450*l.* 5*s.* See note (*a*).
Tonnage Dues -	4,691 0 0	5,420 3 6	729 3 6	- - -	
Store-rent - -	1,141 0 0	1,080 14 4	- - -	60 5 8	
Quarantine Dues - -	220 0 0	31 6 9	- - -	188 13 3	123*l.* 3*s.* 9*d.* less than in 1853, quarantines having nearly ceased.
Land sales - - -	165 0 0	3,789 3 7½	3,624 3 7½	- - -	1,910*l.* 3*s.* 9*d.* above the receipts in 1853. See note (*b*) in respect to 3,639*l.* 0*s.* 2*d.*
Land revenue - -	10,745 0 0	9,787 1 3	- - -	957 18 9	An increase of 544*l.* 2*s.* 1*d.* as compared with the receipts of 1853.—See note (*c*).
Rents exclusive of land -	17,355 0 0	17,310 10 4¼	- - -	44 9 7¾	98*l.* 6*s.* 4*d.* less than in 1853.
Licences - -	1,443 0 0	1,404 15 0	- - -	38 5 0	22*l.* 15*s.* less than in 1853, which included 5*l.* 5*s.* for the former tax on calesses.
Postage - - -	74 0 0	70 16 11	- - -	3 3 1	4*l.* 5*s.* 11*d.* below the receipts in 1853.
Fines, forfeitures, and fees of court.	5,766 0 0	6,700 6 1½	934 6 1½	- - -	889*l.* 16*s.* 5½*d.* above the receipts in 1853, derived from increased business in the Courts.
Fees of office - -	480 0 0	523 4 1½	43 4 1½	- - -	98*l.* 14*s.* 8½*d.* below the receipts in 1853.
Sale of government property	147 0 0	2,204 15 11	2,057 15 11	- - -	A casual branch, which cannot be estimated by any rule. In respect to 1,800*l.* see note (*b*).
Reimbursements in aid of expenses.	411 0 0	752 6 3¾	341 6 3¾	- - -	188*l.* 14*s.* 11¾*d.* more than in 1853. In respect to 174*l.* 4*s.* 7¾*d.* see note (*d*).
SPECIAL RECEIPTS.					
Rents of pious foundations -	2,836 0 0	2,596 6 4½	- - -	239 13 7½	88*l.* 16*s.* 3¾*d.* under the receipts of 1853.—See note (*c*).
Recovery of arrears by the Monte di Pietà.	12 0 0	12 0 0	—	—	——
Interest of money lent by ditto on pledges.	1,060 0 0	1,074 7 1½	14 7 1½	- - -	71*l.* 9*s.* 2*d.* below the receipts in 1853.
Proceeds of unclaimed effects of old dates.	- - -	345 1 6¾	345 1 6¾	- - -	Not of a kind to come into particular comparison.
Money restored at confession	- - -	4 3 4	4 3 4	- - -	
Agio on exchange of specie	- - -	673 3 4	673 3 4	- - -	
	128,434 0 0	123,771 17 0¼	8,766 14 11¼	13,428 17 11¼	

Below the estimate 4,662*l.* 2*s.* 11¾*d.*; and 466*l.* 15*s.* 7*d.* above the total receipts in 1853.

(*a*) Notwithstanding the good native harvest which succeeded the previous year of drought, and of which barley is the chief product, the continued dearness of corn has transferred the importation to a large extent from wheat to barley, and much reduced the consumption of inferior wine. On the importation of these articles, as compared with the amounts in 1853, there is a loss of 4,219*l.* in the duty on wheat, another of 3,007*l.* in the duty on inferior wine, set against a profit of 2,948*l.* in the net receipts from the duty on barley and other inferior kinds of grain.

(*b*) These two sums amounting together to 5,439*l.* 0*s.* 2*d.* are derived from certain building sites and a government building, and are to be applied to the expense of removing civil tenants from the fortifications, and of erecting another building to supply the place of the one sold.

(*c*) Add to the receipts of 1854 1,154*l.* abated on the rents of this year in consequence of the drought of the preceding one, and the estimate of rents will be found to have been approximately attained.

(*d*) This sum has been reimbursed for the care and accommodation of British and French soldiers on the expedition to the East.—See Note (*b*) on Statement of Expenditure.

WM. H. THORNTON,
Auditor General.

Audit Office, Valletta, 23d February 1855.

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT of the estimated Expenditure of Malta for the Year 1854, and the actual Expenditure of the Year, as taken from the Accounts made up from the 1st January to the 31st December 1854.

HEADS OF SERVICE.	Amounts. Estimated.	Disbursed within the Year.	Remaining over for future Disbursement.	Unavailed of, or saved.	Remarks in part Explanation of some of the principal Items of Difference.
Civil Establishments :—	£ s. d.	£ d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	
The Governor	5,954 19 7	5,954 19 7	—	—	
Chief Secretary	3,420 16 0½	3,315 1 11½	83 6 8	22 7 5	
Cashier	953 0 0	952 17 0½	- - -	0 2 11½	
Auditor General	1,015 0 0	1,014 16 1	- - -	0 3 11	
Government Press	341 5 0	340 19 1	- - -	0 5 11	
Post Office	127 10 0	119 6 0	- - -	8 4 0	
Customs Department	2,891 7 6	2,885 15 0	- - -	5 12 6	
Port Department	6,597 3 4	6,483 12 10	- - -	113 10 6	100*l.* connected with the excess in the Land Revenue Office.
Land Revenue	1,650 5 9	1,757 15 8¾	- - -	- - -	107*l.* 9*s.* 11¾*d.* exceeded, whereof 100*l.* connected with the saving in the Port Department, and the remainder covered by the provision on the Civil List.
Public Works	1,689 0 0	1,594 12 8	- - -	94 7 4	A reduction in rate of permanent salaries, and incidental remuneration not required to be defrayed to the extent provided for.
Comptroller of Contracts	1,190 0 0	1,138 12 10	- - -	51 7 2	A provision for incidental remuneration not availed of.
Judicial Departments :—					
Superior Courts	6,373 3 8	6,422 6 6	- - -	- - -	49*l.* 2*s.* 10*d.* exceeded, from emoluments fluctuating with the receipt of Court Dues.
Crown lawyers	663 7 0	663 7 0	—	—	
Courts of judicial police	1,574 3 0	1,572 18 10	- - -	1 4 2	
Syndics of country districts	645 15 0	645 15 0	—	—	
Courts of the Island of Gozo.	917 19 0	917 18 5	- - -	0 0 7	
Ecclesiastical establishments	1,057 4 0	1,054 14 0	- - -	2 10 0	
Educational establishments	5,205 0 0	5,139 18 10	- - -	65 1 2	Temporary vacancies on the establishments.
Medical establishments	5,050 12 0	5,029 18 2	- - -	20 13 10	
Police, including prisons and gaols.	7,996 16 4	7,976 3 1¾	- - -	20 13 2¼	
Monte di Pietà, including Savings' Bank.	1,263 7 4	1,218 7 4	- - -	45 0 0	Provision for incidental remuneration no availed of.
Agent General in London —See note (*a*).	262 10 0	262 10 0	—	—	
				451 4 7¾	
			Deduct -	156 12 9¾	Exceeded on two heads, as above noted
1. Establishments	56,840 4 6½	56,462 6 0½	- - -	294 11 10	
2. Pensions, retired allowances, and gratuities.	16,536 2 10¾	13,744 4 8¾	2,791 18 2	—	
3. Revenue services, exclusive of establishments.	2,954 2 6	2,875 6 2¾	- - -	78 16 3¼	
4. Administration of justice, ditto.	378 2 6	391 11 10¾	- - -	- - -	13*l.* 9*s.* 4¾*d.* exceeded, in consequence of shares defrayed out of a larger receipt from confiscations than was estimated.
5. Ecclesiastical, ditto	92 0 0	71 5 2	- - -	20 14 10	
6. Charitable Allowances	4,000 0 0	3,915 3 9¼	- - -	84 16 2¾	
7. Education, exclusive of establishments.	1,003 11 5¼	693 12 9	294 4 2¼	15 14 6	
8. Hospitals, ditto	12,210 0 0	12,382 0 2	- - -	- - -	172*l.* 0*s.* 2*d.* exceeded—See note (*b*).
9. Police and gaols, ditto	1,505 0 0	1,484 5 9½	- - -	20 14 2½	
10. Rent	293 0 0	266 17 8¾	- - -	26 2 3¼	
11. Transport	459 0 0	422 5 5	- - -	36 14 7	
12. Conveyance of mails	40 0 0	32 1 8	- - -	7 18 4	
13. Works and buildings	17,856 6 11	12,847 17 2	4,684 14 8¼	323 15 0¾	185*l.* from works not proceeded with; and the remainder is composed of the surplusses on many estimates.
14. Road, streets, and bridges.	18,623 18 4¼	15,580 13 9	2,616 3 1¾	427 1 5½	
15. Miscellaneous services	767 1 3	512 8 5¾	249 8 9	5 4 0¼	
16. Interest	2,861 3 3	3,682 6 1	- - -	- - -	821*l.* 2*s.* 10*d.* exceeded—See note (*c*).
17. Contribution towards military expenditure.	6,200 0 0	6,200 0 0	—	—	
18. Burthens on property	1,513 8 0	538 11 2¼	- - -	974 16 9¾	See note (*d*).
19. Drawbacks and refund of duties.	6,058 0 0	5,872 14 9	- - -	185 5 3	
20. Council of government of Malta.	974 12 0	803 10 11	171 1 1	—	
21. Special services under direction of the Secretary of State.	1,576 2 9½	1,374 3 9	201 19 0½	—	
Dis-occupation of places abutting on the fortifications.	6,988 3 10	1,150 8 4¾	5,837 15 5¼	- - -	See note (*e*).
Totals—See note (*f*)	159,730 0 3¼	141,303 15 10	16,930 11 2	2,502 5 8	
			Deduct -	1,006 12 4¾	Exceeded on the three heads above noted.
				1,495 13 3¼	Net amount unavailed of or saved.

MALTA.

NOTES.

(*a*) Sums amounting to 4,635*l.* 12*s.* 2*d.* were remitted to the agent in London during the year 1854, classed in the above statement as follows:—Establishments, namely, Chief Secretary, 10*l.* 7*s.* 9*d.*; Superior Courts, 4*l.* 10*s.*; Educational, 1*l.* 10*s.*; and Agent, 262*l.* 10*s.*; Pensions, 3,212*l.* 11*s.* 9*d.*; Revenue Services, 133*l.* 10*s.* 8*d.*; Charitable Allowances, 18*s.*; Education, 87*l.* 11*s.* 6*d.*; Hospitals, 124*l.* 12*s.*; Police and Gaols, 329*l.* 10*s.* 1*d.*; Council of Government, 200*l.*; and Special Services under direction of the Secretary of State, 268*l.* 0*s.* 5*d.*

(*b*) This excess is neutralized by reimbursement, as explained in note (*d*) to the statement of Revenue.

(*c*) A large arrear has been paid, which was duly provided for in the yearly estimates; but remaining unclaimed was written off at the end of each year into surplus revenue. Being authorized by a permanent Legislative Act, and covered by savings on other branches of the yearly estimate, no further provision became necessary in this case.

(*d*) The burthens falling due at the end of the year have hitherto been paid during the last days of December, but have now been transferred to the first days of January, in uniformity with the general system, which requires that the payments falling due for one month should be settled early in the ensuing one. Accordingly, the payment of burthens in 1854 has been confined to those falling due at other periods than the end of the year.

(*e*) Paid and payable out of the proceeds from the sale of certain building sites at Floriana, and of a Government building also at Floriana.—See note (*b*) to the statement of Revenue.

(*f*) The total estimated is formed thus:—51,772*l.* 9*s.* 10*d.* out of the provision of 52,273*l.* for the "Civil List," in the terms of the 9th Article of Her Majesty's Instructions to the Governor dated the 11th May 1849; 76,314*l.* 6*s.* 3*d.* "Voted Services," in the terms of the Ordinance (of Appropriation) No. IV. of 1853, passed by the Council of Government on the 5th August 1853; 3,958*l.* 3*s.*, Supplemental Voted Services, in the terms of another like Ordinance No. V. of 1854, passed on the 4th August 1854; 22,246*l.* 1*s.* 0½*d.* reserved from the provision of former years, on last year's comparative statement; and 5,439*l.* 0*s.* 2*d.* partly derived from the sale of building sites as described in note (*e*), assigned by resolution of Council passed on the 6th June 1853 to defray the expenses required to cause the evacuation of casemates and premises on or near the ramparts of the four cities including Floriana, and partly from the sale of a government building, the price of which is to be applied for the erection of another building to supply the place of the one sold.

WM. H. THORNTON,
Auditor General.

Audit Office, Valletta, 23d February 1855.

IONIAN ISLANDS.

No. 42.

No. 42.

COPY of a DESPATCH from the Right Hon. Sir JOHN YOUNG, Bart., to the Right Hon. Sir WILLIAM MOLESWORTH, Bart.

(No. 90.)

Corfu, October 20, 1855.

SIR, (Received November 21, 1855.)

I HAVE the honor to forward to you both the original and duplicate copies of the annual financial statement, called the Blue Book for the year 1854, together with the accompanying report.

2. The delay in its transmission this year has been caused by the Ionian Legislative Assembly having called upon the treasurer-general, during its late session, for most voluminous financial statements, which occupied so much of his time that he had none left for preparing those which are annually inserted in the Blue Book.

I have, &c.
(Signed) JOHN YOUNG.

REPORT on the BLUE BOOK for the financial year ending the 31st January 1854.

Revenue.

The gross amount of the revenue in 1853 was		£130,800
„ „ in 1854 „		137,978
Showing an increase in 1854 of	- £	7,178

The items of general revenue showing an increase are—

Olive oil.
Foreign wines and spirits.
Tobacco.
Stamp duties.
Health office.
Post office.
Executive police.
Judicial police.
Mortgage and registration dues.
Miscellaneous.

The increase under the head of olive oil, amounting to 10,563*l.* 16*s.* 2½*d.*, arises from the sale of stock on hand from the year 1853, and the high price of the article in the market.

The increased revenue arising from tobacco, amounting to 331*l.* 14*s.* 8*d.*, is attributed to a greater quantity of wheat and Indian corn being raised in the island than heretofore, in consequence of their high price, and the proportionate abandonment of the cultivation of the tobacco plant.

The increase in the stamp duties, amounting to 477*l.* 3*s.* 11*d.*, arises from the use of stamps in the civil magistrate's court being rendered imperative by Act of Government, No. 3. of the 20th March 1854.

The health office receipts have increased 673*l.* 17*s.* 7*d.* in consequence of the greater amount of merchandise subjected to quarantine during the year 1854.

The post office shows an increase of 343*l.* 14*s.*, arising from the greater number of letters forwarded through it.

In the executive police the increase of 160*l.* 18*s.* $8\frac{1}{10}$*d.* is derived from the greater number of passports issued, and an increased collection of dues for serving legal process.

The judicial police shows an increase of 379*l.* 11*s.* $6\frac{9}{10}$*d.*, derived from a greater number of cases being brought before the district courts.

IONIAN ISLANDS.

Under the head of "miscellaneous" there is an apparent increase of 3,725*l.* 9*s.* $10\frac{4}{10}$*d.*, arising principally from the temporary stoppage on the salaries of public servants of 10 per cent., in aid of the revenue; and also from an increase in the quantity of flour imported.

The customs shows a decrease of 1,865*l.* 16*s.* $0\frac{1}{10}$*d.* attributable to the present high price of provisions, and the distress felt in the southern islands, in consequence of the failure of the current crop.

The export duty on currants shows a diminution of 4,331*l.* 17*s.* $8\frac{2}{10}$*d.*, caused by the currant blight.

The export duty on wine has diminished by 134*l.* 17*s.* 1*d.*, in consequence of the vine disease which prevails in these islands.

The loss on the import duty on grain, occasioned by an increase in the price, and the interruption of commerce in the Black Sea, amounts to 2,394*l.* 18*s.* $8\frac{7}{10}$*d.*

Under the head of receipts for public instruction there is a decrease of 294*l.* 7*s.* $11\frac{5}{10}$*d.*, arising from arrears to the amount of 174*l.* having been paid in 1853 on account of the ladies' school, and a falling off in the college receipts during the year 1854.

Expenditure.

Increase.

Under the head of Legislative Assembly there is an increase of 730*l.* 3*s.* $6\frac{4}{10}$*d.*, in consequence of the biennial meeting of the Ionian Legislative Assembly.

Public works show an increased expenditure of 631*l.* 2*s.* $1\frac{9}{10}$*d.*, occasioned chiefly by the employment of a steam dredger in cleaning the Port of Zante.

Under the head of stamps there is an increase of 738*l.* 15*s.* 8*d.* for the purchase of paper.

In the executive police there is an increase of expenditure to the amount of 98*l.* 11*s.* $2\frac{4}{10}$*d.*, for the employment of additional civic guards, and in the Courts of Justice of 247*l.* 16*s.* 8*d.*, in consequence of a greater number of correctional cases than during the preceding year.

Decrease.

Civil Establishment.

Under this head there has been a diminution of 1,259*l.* 5*s.*, which may be partly accounted for by the fact that in 1853 the sum of 800*l.* was paid to the Chevalier Xidian in commutation of his pension.

There has, however, been a real saving in the sanita and police departments, and a diminution of the charge on the pension fund, which accounts for the remainder.

Under the head of judicial establishments there is a decrease of 1,133*l.* 16*s.* $11\frac{9}{10}$*d.*, in consequence of a reduction in the number of judges, Act of Government No. 3, of the 24th November 1852, not having been confirmed by the Assembly.

Education shows a decreased expenditure of 1,030*l.* 9*s.* 5*d.*, occasioned by an alteration in the system of paying village schoolmasters, so that their salaries may depend in a greater degree upon their exertions; and a diminution in the contingent expenditure.

In the packet establishment there is a diminution of 947*l.* 4*s.* 6*d.*, occasioned by a smaller consumption of coal, and reductions in the department.

Under the head of contingent expenditure there is a decrease of 3,488*l.* 11*s.* $10\frac{6}{10}$*d.* This decrease appears, principally, on account of the sums paid in 1853 to the Trivoli family, in liquidation of their claims on the Government.

The expenditure for the year 1853 amounted to		£145,003
"	" 1854 "	139,511
Showing a decrease of	-	5,492

Local Revenue.

The local revenues of the islands for the year 1854 show an increase over the year 1853 of 1716*l.* 3*s.* $9\frac{4}{10}$*d.*

The principal items of municipal revenue showing an increase, are

Water rates in Corfu and Zante, 494*l.* 8*s.* 2*d.*, occasioned by a resumption of payments by the ordnance department, and arrears collected in Corfu.

Export duty on Zante soap, 324*l.* 17*s.*, arising from an increased exportation to the East.

Port duties, 172*l.* 1*s.* $1\frac{4}{10}$*d.*, caused by a return of vessels to the Ionian flag in consequence of the disturbed state of the East.

Under the head of arms licences there is a decrease of 285*l.* 18*s.* $7\frac{5}{10}$*d.*, and of shop and tavern licences, 150*l.* 11*s.* 11*d.*, in consequence of the licences not being renewed.

On that portion of the general revenue paid for municipal purposes there is a loss of 259*l.* 17*s.* $11\frac{5}{10}$*d.*, occasioned by the falling off in the customs duties.

There is a decrease in the municipal expenditure of 1,344*l.* 13*s.* $4\frac{7}{10}$*d.*

Under the head of salaries there is a decrease amounting to 1,012*l.* 2*s.* $11\frac{7}{10}$*d.*, arising from a diminution in the salaries of the district municipal officers; 534*l.* 1*s.* 1*d.* under the head of hospitals and charities; 318*l.* 10*s.* 5*d.* for lighting and cleaning the streets; and under the head of "Incidentals" there is a decrease of 2,331*l.* 17*s.* 7*d.*, occasioned, principally, by the payment in 1853 of 1,960*l.* 8*s.* 2*d.* for settlement of litigated claims, and for electoral expenses.

In the road department there is an increase of 1,576*l.* 18*s.* 7*d.* for the maintenance and repair of existing roads, and of 893*l.* 3*s.* $10\frac{5}{10}$*d.* under the head of prisons, diet, &c., occasioned by a rise in the price of provisions.

Military Contribution.

During the year 1854 the military contribution of 25,000*l.* per annum has been regularly and fully paid.

Judicial Establishment.

The only change has been a reduction in the number of judges appointed to the district courts.

Ecclesiastical.

No alteration has been made in the ecclesiastical establishment during the past year,

There has been no change in the system of public education since last return, with the exception of an alteration in the payment of village schoolmasters, whose salaries have been made to depend in a greater degree on their own exertions than hitherto.

Commerce.

Notwithstanding the blockade of the Russian ports of the Black Sea, with which so much of the commerce of these states is carried on, the amount of both exports and imports in 1854 was considerably greater than in 1853.

Agriculture

Is improving, and extending in the neighbourhood of the towns, and the present high price of grain has tended greatly to extend the cultivation of wheat and Indian corn in all the islands.

Population.

There is a sensible falling off in the population to the number of 1584, as compared with the returns of 1853. This may in a great measure be accounted for by the number of Ionians and Maltese residing in the islands who have gone to the East to seek employment in the army and navy establishments, and as camp followers.

G. F. Bowen,
Secretary to the Lord High Commissioner.

Palace, Corfu,
October 30, 1855.

LONDON:
Printed by GEORGE EDWARD EYRE and WILLIAM SPOTTISWOODE,
Printers to the Queen's most Excellent Majesty.
For Her Majesty's Stationery Office.

THE

REPORTS

Made for the Year 1855 *to the Secretary of State having the Department of the Colonies; in continuation of the Reports annually made by the Governors of the British Colonies, with a view to exhibit generally*

THE PAST AND PRESENT STATE

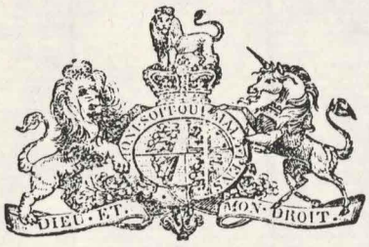
OF

HER MAJESTY'S COLONIAL POSSESSIONS.

TRANSMITTED WITH THE BLUE BOOKS

For the Year 1855.

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty,
21*st March* 1857.



LONDON:
PRINTED BY GEORGE EDWARD EYRE AND WILLIAM SPOTTISWOODE,
PRINTERS TO THE QUEEN'S MOST EXCELLENT MAJESTY.
FOR HER MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE.

1857.

SCHEDULE.

PART I.—NORTH AMERICAN COLONIES, 1855.

Place.	Name and Date.	SUBJECT.	Page.
1. CANADA - -	Governor-General Sir E. Head, Bart. January 17, 1857. (No. 8.)	Prosperous Condition of the Province — Abundant Harvest — Table showing the Amount and Value of Wheat and Flour exported for the years 1852, 1853, 1854, and 1855 - - - - - - -	1
		Working of the Reciprocity Treaty with the United States — The Settlement of the Country rapidly advancing—Tabular Returns of Land Sales, &c. — Surveys connected with the extension of Railway and Canal Traffic — Canada Trade with Chicago — New Lighthouses — The Canada Militia — Extension of the Post Offices — Tabular Statement of the Progress of the Post Office in Canada since 1851—Statement showing what Progress has been made in carrying out the pecuniary provisions of the Clergy Reserves Act—Statement showing the progress made under the Act for the Commutation of the Seignorial Tenure—Progress of Education - -	3 8 9 10
2. NOVA SCOTIA -	Lieut.-Governor Sir J. G. Le Marchant. February 14, 1856. (No. 23.)	Transmitting the Blue Book for the year 1854, with a Letter from the Provincial Secretary explanatory of the causes which retarded its earlier transmission -	12
3. NEW BRUNSWICK.	Lieut.-Governor the Hon. J. H. T. Manners Sutton. January 23, 1857. (No. 4.)	Satisfactory condition of the Province—Its sanitary state—Effect of the working of the Reciprocity Treaty with the United States — Mines and Minerals — Shipbuilding—Tabular Returns relative to, &c.	14 16
4. PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND.	Lieut.-Governor Sir D. Daly. December 15, 1856. (No. 60.)	Effect on the Revenue by the Operation of the Free Trade principle introduced by the Reciprocity Treaty with the United States - - - - - - -	19
		Education — Benefits of the Free School system—Exertions of the Royal Agricultural Society in furthering improvements in Agriculture — Commerce prosperous—The New York, Newfoundland, and London Electric Telegraph — Progress of the work—Police—Militia - - -	19
5. NEWFOUNDLAND.	Governor Darling. August 31, 1856. (No. 76.)	Form of Government—Responsible Government put in operation—Reciprocity Treaty with the United States — Abrogation of Import Duties on certain Articles and Increase of Import Duties on certain other Articles — Revenue and Public Debt — Pursuits and Habits of Population—Educational statistics — Lighthouse on Cape Race—Electric Telegraph between Europe and America—Retrospective view of the Condition of the Colony - - -	20 23 24 36 37
6. BERMUDA -	Governor Murray. June 18, 1856. (No. 174.)	General prosperity of the Colony—Increased Revenue—Agriculture—Commerce - -	50

PART II.—WEST INDIES, MAURITIUS, AND THE SEYCHELLES ISLANDS.

Place.	Name and Date.	SUBJECT.	Page.
7. JAMAICA - -	Governor Sir H. Barkly. May 12, 1856. (No. 65.)	Revenue and Expenditure — Legislation — Immigration at a stay — Comfortable Condition and peaceable Disposition of the Lower Orders — State of Education — Tabular Returns relative to Crime — Coins and Exchanges—Revival of Trade in the Colony — Imports and Exports — Agriculture—Crops damaged by continued wet Weather — Prices of Sugars — Improvement in the state of affairs of the Colony -	59 57
8. HONDURAS -	Governor Sir H. Barkly. April 24, 1856. (No. 19.)	General Report by Mr. Superintendent Stevenson—Comparative Statement of Revenue—Expenditure within the Revenue —New Iron Bridge — Legislation, new Constitution — Revision of Civil Establishment — Ecclesiastical Establishments insufficient—Progress of Education—Imports and Exports — Shipping—Agriculture, &c.—Gaols and Charitable Institutions	67 70 73
9. BAHAMAS -	Governor Sir Alex. Bannerman. Nov. 11, 1856. (No. 64.)	Revenue and Expenditure compared with that of the previous year—the Nassau Library—Progress of Education—Valuable Timber on the out Islands—Plants suitable to the Manufacture of Paper—State of Salt Pans—Report of Civil Engineer on the out Islands - - - - - - -	74 76
10. TURK'S ISLAND	Mr. President Inglis. June 6, 1856. (No. 2.)	Report on the state of the Island for 1854 and 1855—Exports, Imports, Revenue, and Expenditure—Statement of Quantity and Value of Salt exported—Education, Government Schools—Report of Crown Commissioner on the state of the Public Works -	84 89
11. TRINIDAD	Governor Sir Charles Elliot. August 20, 1856. (No. 71.)	Revenue and Expenditure—The Crops of 1855 were short, owing to the heavy rains —Trade with the United States—Success of mode of Management of the Local Concerns and Roads—Timber cutting and opening up of Forests—State of Public Works—State of Schools and Gaol— Tabular Return of Exports—Statistical Return of the Ward Unions - -	92 95 96
12. BRITISH GUIANA.	Governor Wodehouse. September 9, 1856. (No. 122.)	Remarks on the Revenue and Expenditure of the past year—State of the Public Furniture at Government House—Review of the Enactments of the past year - - -	99
13. BARBADOS -	Governor Sir W. M. G. Colebrook. January 21, 1856. (Extract.) (No. 4.)	Remarks as to the Causes of the Financial Difficulties of the past year—Commercial Prospects — Legislation — State of the Schools — General Observations on the Constitution of local Assemblies and responsible Government - - - -	100
14. „ -	Governor Hincks. May 7, 1856. (Extract.) (No. 25.)	Opinion on the proposition for uniting the Windward Islands into one Legislature— Returns relative to Revenue, Expenditure, Population, Imports, Exports, &c. - -	103
15. GRENADA -	Governor Hincks. May 2, 1856. (Extract.) (No. 18.)	General Report by Lieutenant Governor Keate on the state of Grenada—Revenue insufficient to meet the Expenditure— Abandonment of Sugar Estates—General Observations on the Causes, &c.—Report of the Inspector of Schools - -	106 111

PART II.—WEST INDIES, MAURITIUS, &c.—*continued.*

Place.	Name and Date.	SUBJECT.	Page.
16. GRENADA -	Governor Hincks. July 7, 1856. (No. 29.)	General Report by Acting Lieut.-Governor Walker on the State of Grenada — Amount and State of Crown Lands in the Island—State of Negro Population—Remarks on the Causes which led to the Abandonment of Sugar Estates—Cultivation of Cocoa—Number of Estates in Operation - - - -	118
17. TOBAGO -	Governor Hincks. July 7, 1856. (No. 44.)	General Report by Lieut.-Governor Shortland on the State of Tobago—Encouraging State of the Prospects of the Colony—Progress of Public Works—State of the Negro Population — Statistical Returns relative to Receipts and Expenditure, Criminals, Sugar Estates, Population, Land, Shipping, &c. - - -	123 129 139
18. ST. VINCENT -	Governor Hincks. May 2, 1856. (No. 29.)	General Report by Lieut.-Governor Eyre on the State of St. Vincent — Reduction of Public Debt — Revenue and Expenditure Public Works — Legislature — Political Franchise — Education — Imports and Exports — Produce grown in the Colony — State of Crime — Abstract Returns of Revenue and Expenditure, Population, Churches, Schools, Shipping, Crimes, &c. -	140 144
19. ST. LUCIA -	Governor Hincks. May 22, 1856. (No. 14.)	General Report by Acting Lieut.-Governor Drysdale on the State of St. Lucia — Financial Statement of Revenue and Expenditure — Public Debts — Public Works — State of the Roads — Prisoners and Gaol Expenses — Legislative Enactments of the year — State of Education in the Island — Remarks on the causes of the Failure of the Schools — Agriculture, Logwood cutting — Provision made for the introduction of more Labourers into St. Lucia — Progress of the Militia - -	160 164
		General Observations on the cultivation of Sugar Estates, Cocoa, Logwood, State of the Negro Population, Crown Lands — The sanitary State of the Island most satisfactory—Statistical Returns accompanying the above Report - -	167
20. ANTIGUA -	Governor Hamilton. May 10, 1856. (No. 21.)	General Report on the State of Antigua — Remarks on the Revenue and Expenditure — The Public Debt reduced — Public Works, reconstruction of Roads and Streets — Legislation of the past year — Population increasing — The sanitary Condition of the Island satisfactory — Education, Return of Schools and Scholars, proposed Educational Bill — Imports and Exports — Agricultural activity — State of the Crops — Improvements in Husbandry — Gaols, Prisoners, and Police — General Remarks on the progress of Antigua, the Taxation, the Liabilities, and Resources of the Island - - - -	176 179 180
21. MONTSERRAT	Governor Hamilton. April 9, 1856. (No. 14.)	Mr. President Rushworth's General Report on the State of Montserrat—Improvement in the Financial Condition of the Island—Exports of Sugar — Financial Returns — Reduction in public Expenditure — State of the Earthquake Loan — Crime and Offences — Orderly and peaceable State of the Population — Account of Sugar Estates and other Properties thrown on the Public, with the Sums lent on them, the Amounts for which some sold, and the Loss sustained - - - -	184 187 189

PART II.—WEST INDIES, MAURITIUS, &c.—*continued.*

Place.	Name and Date.	SUBJECT.	Page.
22. ST. KITTS -	Governor Hamilton. May 10, 1856. (No. 17.)	Report by Lieut.-Governor Robinson on the general condition of St. Kitts — Satisfactory State of the Finances—Public Works, the new Jetty, Roads, Water Supply, Cemetery—Legislation of the past year—Review of the Labour Question—Education, State of the Schools—Crime on the decrease—Remarks on the Agricultural State of the Island, and the Causes of the favourable appearance of St Kitts -	190 198
23. NEVIS - -	Governor Hamilton. May 10, 1856. (No. 18.)	Report by Mr. President Seymour on the Condition of Nevis—Remarks upon the present Features of Society in this Island, and expressing expectations of future Improvement under the new fiscal Arrangements — Revenue and Expenditure — Taxation — The Public Debt — Public Works, State of the Roads—Legislative Enactments—Population—Baptisms, Marriages, and Deaths—Education, satisfactory State of the Schools—Coins and Exchanges — Imports and Exports — Prisons and Crime—Moral State of the Population -	201 209
24. VIRGIN ISLANDS.	Governor Hamilton. April 9, 1856. (No. 7.)	Report of President Kortright on the State of the Virgin Islands—Amendment of the Constitution of these Islands—Observations on Wrecking—Satisfactory State of the Revenue — Crime — The Poor Asylum — Remarks on the Occupation of the Population—Tortola suitable to the raising of all Descriptions of Stock—Cultivation of Guinea Grass — The Sanitary Condition of these Islands satisfactory—Schools—Management of the Salt Ponds - - - -	211 213
25. DOMINICA -	Governor Hamilton. May 10, 1856. (No. 15.)	Report of Lieut.-Governor Blackall on the Condition of Dominica—Remarks on the value and importance of the Services of the Stipendiary Magistrates — Deranged State of the Finances—Crops and Labour —Crime and its Suppression—The Progress of Education not very satisfactory—Criminal Statistics - - -	214
26. „ -	Governor Hamilton. May 22, 1856. (No. 16.)	Enclosing Returns relative to Imports, Exports, and Shipping, which should have been contained in the Blue Book accompanying the above Despatch - -	216
27. MAURITIUS -	Governor Higginson. May 31, 1856. (No. 94.)	Financial Condition of Mauritius—Revenue and Expenditure—Imports and Exports—Decrease in Population—Report of the Chief Medical Officer upon the cause and progress of Small Pox — Ecclesiastical Establishment—The first Bishop of Mauritius — Contemplated measures for the Extension of Education — Legislation — Grants of Land—Public Works and Roads — Lighthouses — Gaols and Prisoners—Criminal Statistics — Agriculture and Manufacture—The use of Guano in production of Sugar—Ravages committed by an insect called the " Caneborer "—Immigration, good results of—General Remarks on the advantages possessed by Mauritius for the growth of Sugar—Steam Communication with the Seychelles Islands — State of Society —Quarantine — Comparative Statement of Imports and Exports for the last four years—Report on the Royal College for the Session 1855 - - - -	220 224 229 234

PART II.—WEST INDIES, MAURITIUS, &c.—*continued.*

Place.	Name and Date.	SUBJECT.	Page.
28. SEYCHELLES -	Governor Higginson. August 14, 1856. (No. 141.)	Report of Mr. Civil Commissioner Wade on the State of the Seychelles Islands—Progress being gradually made—The Revenue considerably increasing—The social and moral Condition of the People improved -	237
		Education: proposes to place the Schools under the direct Agency of the Government—Cocoa Nut Plantation—Labour—Anticipated advantages of Steam Communication—Question of Capital and Labour.	
		Statement of Expenditure annually incurred on account of Seychelles during the last Three Years - - - - - -	241

PART III.—AFRICAN SETTLEMENTS AND ST. HELENA.

29. SIERRA LEONE	Governor Hill. April 18, 1856. (No. 107.)	General Report respecting Sierra Leone, having reference to the Taxes and Duties levied—Revenue and Expenditure—Public Works—Draining the grass fields—Legislation—Population and direct Taxation—Ecclesiastical Establishments—Moral influence of the Clergy over the Aboriginal Tribes of Africa—Education and State of the Schools—Imports and Exports—The Colony makes satisfactory progress - -	244 246
30. GAMBIA -	Governor O'Connor. April 7, 1856. (No. 20.)	General Report respecting Gambia—Revenue and Expenditure—The Public Market—Extension of Commercial Expeditions—The Governor's Tour up the River Gambia beyond the Falls of Barraconda—Treaties with Chiefs concluded—The Combo Insurrection—Military Defences—Cape St. Mary—Bathurst—Military Settlers -	248 250
31. GOLD COAST -	Acting Governor Connor. July 12, 1856. (No. 62.)	General Report on the Gold Coast Settlements—Imports and Exports—Education—The Poll Tax Collection—Revenue and Expenditure—Prisons—State of the Natives—Remarks on their Food and manner of Cooking—Remarkable Species of Fruit Tree called "Poppoi," its peculiar Properties — State of Health in the Settlements—Draws attention to the importance of introducing Beasts of Burthen - -	250 255
32. ST. HELENA -	Acting Governor Vigors. April 4, 1856. (No. 16.)	State of the Revenue of St. Helena—Water Works and Water Supply to Shipping—Population—Wheat-growing Experiments satisfactory—Erection of the Flour Mill -	255
33. CAPE OF GOOD HOPE.	Governor Sir G. Grey. August 15, 1856. (No. 71.)	Transmitting the Blue Book for the year 1854, with a letter from the Provincial Secretary explanatory of the causes which prevented its earlier completion - -	256
34. „ -	Governor Sir G. Grey. December 11, 1856. (No. 119.)	Transmitting the Blue Book for the year 1855, with similar explanation - -	257
35. NATAL - -	Acting Lieut.-Governor Cooper. June 5, 1856. (No. 30.)	General Report on the Condition of Natal for the Year 1855—Taxes and Duties—Revenue and Expenditure—Comparative Statements of Revenue and Expenditure—Roads—Legislative Enactments—Imports and Exports—Agriculture—Remarks on the progress of Sugar-growing in this Colony—Administration of Justice and Criminal Statistics - - -	260 264

PART IV.—AUSTRALIAN COLONIES AND NEW ZEALAND.

Place.	Name and Date.	SUBJECT.	Page.
36. NEW SOUTH WALES.	Governor-General Sir Wm. Denison. September 18, 1856. (No. 145.)	General Report upon the Condition of New South Wales—The New Constitution—Explains the apparent discrepancy in the Returns in consequence of the consolidation of the Revenues of the Colony into one Fund under the New Constitution Act—Revenue and Expenditure—Public Works, Railways — Bridges — Navigation of the Rivers Hunter and Brisbane—The Educational Returns unsatisfactory—State of the Schools—Imports and Exports—Increased price of the necessaries of life—Exports of Wool, Tallow, and Gold—Increase of Land under Crop—Amount and value of Lands sold—State of the Gaols, and Prison Discipline - -	268 270 271
37. VICTORIA -	Governor Sir Charles Hotham. December 14, 1855. (No. 154.)	Report for 1854 on the Amount of Revenue derived from the various Taxes and Duties, as enumerated and contrasted with 1853—Electric Telegraph established—Territorial Revenues—Local Revenues—Public Works — Civil Establishment — Pensions —Foreign Consuls—Population—Ecclesiastical and Educational Establishments—Imports and Exports—Agriculture—Land under Crop—Stock, &c. - - - -	271 274 276
38. TASMANIA -	Governor Sir H. E. F. Young. June 4, 1856. (No. 70.)	General Report for the year 1855—The Population—Immigration and Re-emigration—The Convict Population—Climate and Diseases — Imports and Exports — Shipping and Lighthouses—Land Sales—Cultivation — Prices of Provisions and Wages—Post Offices—Proposed Railway — Judicial Establishments — Crime — Schools and Churches—General Observations on the resources of Tasmania—Gold discoveries—Proposed exploration for Gold —Observations founded on the Governor's recent Visit to the new Country - -	277 279
		Statistical Tables of Tasmania for the year 1855 - - - - - - -	280
39. SOUTH AUSTRALIA.	Governor Sir R. G. Macdonnell. August 10, 1856. (No. 113.)	General Report for the year 1855—Estimated Population—Pauperism—Crime—Climate and Diseases—Lunatic Asylum—Meteorological Observations—Agriculture, Cultivation—Prices of Grain, &c.—Imports and Exports—Exchanges, &c.—Revenue and Expenditure—Ecclesiastical and Educational Establishments—Land Sales and Surveys—Post Offices—Table showing the time occupied in the Transmission of Mails —Expense of Public Works—Progress of Public Improvements under the Management of Boards—Legislation—List of Acts passed—Reports of Surveyor General and Immigration Agent - - -	298 302 306 309
40. WESTERN AUSTRALIA.	Governor Kennedy. June 13, 1856. (No. 58.)	General Report for the year 1855 on the subject of Taxes and Duties—Revenue and Expenditure—Public Debt—Legislation—Imports and Exports—Agriculture and Land Sales—State of the Aborigines—Remarks on the present Resources and Prospects of Western Australia—Convict Labour—Criminal Statistics—The Pensioner Force—Report of Lieut.-Colonel Bruce, the Staff Officer - - -	313 316

PART IV.—AUSTRALIAN COLONIES AND NEW ZEALAND—*continued.*

Place.	Name and Date.	SUBJECT.	Page.
41. WESTERN AUSTRALIA.	Governor Kennedy. Nov. 28, 1856. (No. 122.)	Observations of the Governor on the Progress of the Colony with reference to his recent Tour, and drawing a favourable comparison upon the state of the Colony between the past and present Season - - -	319
42. NEW ZEALAND	Governor Gore Browne. March 3, 1856. (No. 21.)	Forwarding the Blue Book for 1854, with Letter from the Colonial Secretary, explaining the Causes of the Delay in making up these Returns - - - - -	320

PART V.—EASTERN COLONIES.

43. CEYLON -	Governor Sir H. G. Ward. June 9, 1856. (No. 94.)	General Report on the Condition of Ceylon for the past year—Prosperous state of the Finances — Remarks upon the principal items of Revenue—Public Works—Railways — Roads — Bridges — Lands sold — State of the Surveys — Legislation — Public Health — Imports and Exports — Education — Pearl Fishery of 1855 — The Produce—State of the Pearl Banks—State of Government House and Furniture —Comparative Statement of Revenue and Expenditure from 1849 to 1854—Report of Central School Commission - -	322 327 328 330 331
44. HONG KONG -	Sir John Bowring. May 24, 1856. (No. 82.)	General Report respecting Hong Kong for the year 1855—Advancement of the Colony —Increase of Trade in all its branches—Improvement in the character of the Chinese Population—Public Health—Population — Increase of Revenue—Expenditure — Public Works — Legislation — Fisheries — Crime — Piracy — Shipping — Proposed revision of the Civil Establishment, &c. - - - - -	365 369
45. LABUAN - -	Acting Governor Low. June 26, 1856. (No. 7.)	Comparative Statements of Revenue and Expenditure—Decreased Revenue and the Causes—Population increasing—Sanitary state of the Settlement — Prevalence of Piracy the cause of decrease of Exports —Anticipated attack on the Settlement by the Pirates, and the Means taken for its defence - - - - - - -	370
46. FALKLAND ISLANDS.	Governor Moore. January 16, 1856. (No. 6.)	Progressive Improvement of the Colony—Remarks on the advantages which have already resulted to Shipping from the Foundation and Maintenance of a Settlement in these Islands—Table showing the Number, &c. of Shipping which called at Stanley during the years 1844 to 1855—The Lighthouse—Erection of Docks much required - - - - - - -	372

PART VI.—MEDITERRANEAN POSSESSIONS.

Place.	Name and Date.	SUBJECT.	Page.
47. MALTA - -	Governor Sir William Reid. May 19, 1856. (No. 45.)	Report of the Auditor General upon the Financial Condition of the Island—Trial by Jury—Freedom of the Press—Quarantine—Review of the gross Revenue of Malta since the Formation of the new Tariffs in 1837 - - - - - -	376
48. IONIAN ISLANDS.	The Right Hon. Sir John Young, Bart. July 1, 1856. (No. 37.)	General Report for the year 1855—Revenue and Expenditure—Military Contribution —Judicial Establishment—Commerce and Agriculture—Population - - -	379

REPORTS

EXHIBITING

THE PAST AND PRESENT STATE OF HER MAJESTY'S COLONIAL POSSESSIONS.

PART I.

NORTH AMERICAN COLONIES.

CANADA.

No. 1.

Copy of DESPATCH from Governor General Sir E. Head to the Right Honourable H. Labouchere.

(No. 8.)

Government House, Toronto, C.W.,
January 17, 1857.

(Received February 7, 1857.)

Sir,

In writing a Despatch to accompany the Blue Book for 1855, I feel great pleasure in assuring Her Majesty's Government of the continued prosperity and loyalty of Canada.

2. The harvests of 1855 and 1856 have been on the whole good in both years; however, especially in the latter, the crops of Lower Canada have suffered partially from wet and damp. In Upper Canada the wheat crop was for the most part secured in good condition.

3. The quantity of wheat produced and sold in 1855 and the spring of 1856 in Upper Canada has been very large, and the profits to the farmers very considerable. The sums thus received have produced fruit in improving the building, and the cultivation of the soil, as well as in augmenting the expenditure of the population on their own comforts; an expenditure tending to keep up the revenue of the province. Some notion of the increase of receipts on account of wheat may be formed from the annexed Table, extracted from the Trade and Navigation Returns of Canada.

TOTAL EXPORTS.

		1852.	1853.	1854.	1855.
Wheat	Bushels -	1,883,598½	2,666,903	1,442,677	3,193,748
	Value -	£355,456 8 1	£772,610 8 1	£524,534 6 3	£1,482,216 12 1
Flour -	Barrels -	702,624	786,058	651,400	643,936
	Value -	£689,377 10 2	£1,062,208 14 11	£1,999,174 18 5	£1,450,480 2 7

4. The following Table may be taken as supplementary to the Blue Book of 1855, and exhibits the relative conditions of the revenue from customs duties and public works up to the end of November in 1855 and 1856.

D.

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT of the net Amount of Receipts from Customs and Revenue from Public Works for 1855 and 1856.

MONTHS.	CUSTOMS.						REVENUE FROM PUBLIC WORKS.					
	1855.			1856.			1855.			1856.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
January	45,494	3	10	31,617	15	7	5,260	17	2	3,901	10	8
February	22,031	16	11	29,760	16	9	725	4	3	1,677	0	5
March	46,745	5	0	46,406	3	8	688	1	5	125	19	7
April	64,298	8	11	134,144	4	4	2,519	15	4	174	3	8
May	130,473	1	4	138,567	14	9	6,627	11	7	7,299	17	4
June	77,655	10	7	108,166	12	5	13,852	1	11	13,907	9	7
July	61,310	14	8	150,404	8	3	11,387	15	6	13,629	16	5
August	57,456	17	2	73,023	15	5	11,318	8	11	12,604	3	5
September	112,899	6	4	145,638	4	0	10,727	11	8	16,293	0	8
October	117,873	7	9	101,157	5	3	15,731	7	1	17,197	1	3
November	51,175	11	9	59,425	4	4	15,943	4	3	12,781	14	4
December	—			—			—			—		
TOTAL	787,414	4	3	1,018,312	4	9	94,781	19	1	99,591	17	4

RECAPITULATION.

	£	s.	d.
Customs 1855	787,414	4	3
„ 1856	1,018,312	4	9
Increase, 1856	230,898	0	6
Revenue from Public Works, 1855	94,781	19	1
„ „ 1856	99,591	17	4
Increase, 1856	4,809	18	3

Receiver General's Office, Toronto,
December 1, 1856.

5. The amount required for meeting the additional charge of interest thrown on the province by the debentures of the Grand Trunk Railway was in fact secured by the increased receipts previous to 5th July, the day on which the new duties took effect.

6. The working of the reciprocity treaty will be best shown by the following extract from the report of the Secretary of the United States Treasury just laid before Congress:

"The effect of reciprocal free trade is shown by Statement No. 29. of our "commerce with the British North American Provinces before and since the "reciprocity treaty, which went into effect in 1854. In 1853, the exports of "American produce to those provinces amounted to $7,404,087, and our "imports from them to $7,550,718; whilst in 1856 the exports of American "produce to said provinces amounted to $22,714,697, and our imports from "them to $21,310,421."

Mr. Myron Clark, Governor of the State of New York, whom I had the pleasure of meeting at Kingston a few weeks since, assured me that the operation of the treaty was highly beneficial to them. I replied that, like all trade which was based on sound principles, it was, I conceived, beneficial to both parties. Such is my belief as regards its effects in Canada.

7. The settlement of the country is advancing rapidly. The land offered by the Government to settlers on the new road between Lake Ontario and the tributaries of the Ottawa has been readily taken on condition of actual settlement. The sale of a portion of the Indian lands at Saugeen has taken place at rates which prove the amount of capital ready to be expended in purchases of this kind. One third of the purchase money had to be paid down,

and the land is by no means uniformly good. The result of the whole may be stated as follows:

Number of Acres of Farm Land in the Tract 144,000.

Acres sold	109,000
Acres unsold	35,000
	144,000

	Farm Lots.	Park Lots.	Town Lots.	Total.
Total value at upset price	55,823*l.*	4,305*l.*	1,950*l.*	62,079*l.*
Total sale price	100,341*l.*	10,609*l.*	8,382*l.*	119,332*l.*
Average upset price per acre	10*s.* 3*d.*	—	—	—
Average price per acre for which they sold	18*s.* 6*d.*	—	—	—
Average advance upon the upset prices	80 per cent.	150 per cent.	325 per cent.	—

Total amount sold	£ 119,332
Upset value of unsold land	16,398
	135,730

8. In Lord Durham's report, printed in 1839, a strong contrast is drawn between the value of land on the British and the American sides of the frontier. Since the Saugeen sale I have endeavoured to obtain trustworthy information as to the present value of land in Michigan, the region opposite to that peninsula. I cannot say that the answers which I have received lead me to suppose that any preference such as was described by Lord Durham for the United States' side of the lake now exists, in this district at least.

9. In the course of this autumn I have visited the Upper Ottawa, proceeding as far as the highest timber slides on that river at the point called "les Deux Joachims," above 160 miles above Ottawa city. I had with me the two first commissioners of the board of works. The country throughout is settling fast. At Pembroke on the Upper Canada side, at the head of the Allumette Island, I was told that scarcely a lot remained in the township not taken up. A good deal of anxiety has been expressed, especially at Montreal, with regard to the opening of traffic by canal or railway up the valley of the Ottawa to Lake Huron. This scheme which is yet in a crude state, excites, I am told, considerable interest at Boston, where it seems to be believed that such a route would secure to that city facilities for traffic with the western states now enjoyed mainly by New York.

10. We have at this moment surveying parties on the Ottawa for the purpose of ascertaining the practicable nature of any such plan. The objects of making this examination of the country in question will be best shown by the following extracts from the instructions to the surveyor, Mr. W. Shanley:

"In the last general report of this department upon the public works of the "province, which was laid before the legislature during the last session, the "project then generally mooted, of rendering the River Ottawa navigable "throughout, was referred to, and a survey of that river and of the adjoining "country was recommended. To cover the cost of such survey, a sum was "placed on the estimates, and was appropriated for by Parliament.

11. "The immediate commencement of this survey is now decided on, and "I am directed to acquaint you that his Excellency the Governor-General, "having full reliance on your zeal, energy, and professional acquirements, has "been pleased to sanction an arrangement by which will be intrusted to you "the principal charge and direction of it.

12. "A copy of the Order in Council on the subject is enclosed herewith.

13. "In the report above referred to the matter is thus introduced:

"'The importance of opening a thorough line of communication from "Montreal by the line of the Ottawa, Lake Temiscouaming, and French "River, to Lake Huron, has of late attracted a large share of public attention. "The board of trade of the city of Montreal, the corporation of the city of "Ottawa, the municipalities of several of the counties which would be

" traversed by this route, have taken the matter up, and several petitions " connected with it have been presented to the Executive.

14. " 'The expediency of improving the navigation of the Ottawa, by " making it continuous, so as to avoid the numerous transhipments that " necessarily take place at present, has been for some years admitted, and an " appropriation of 50,000*l.* was made towards the commencement of the works, " which are of such a nature and so situated that on the completion of each " separately immediate benefit will be derived therefrom. On the completion " of the Chats Canal, the delay and expense of transhipment and portage " between Lake Chaudiere and Chats Lake will be got rid of, and a continuous " navigation opened from Aylmer to the Chats. In like manner, when the " improvements at the city of Ottawa (of which a survey and estimate have " been made) are effected, an uninterrupted navigation will be open down to " Montreal. Had the canals at Carillon and Grenville (known as Ordnance " Canal) been the property and under the control of the province, it is " probable that the improvements would have been commenced with them, " and doubtless on their becoming provincial property their enlargement and " improvement will be provided for.

15. " 'All such improvements to the navigation have been undertaken with " the view of their being carried out to such extent as the Ottawa is capable of, " at a reasonable outlay, and as the conveying of supplies for the lumber trade " and the opening and settlement of the country would appear to demand. The " dimensions of the locks were proposed to be the same as those of the " St. Lawrence navigation, but with a less draught of water; namely, *six feet* " *six inches* on the sills, which it was considered would be found ample for the " water communication contemplated, and could not well be increased, owing to " the depth of the river itself in places, except at a greatly increased expense.

16. " 'This communication, however, as the subject is now taken up, is con- " templated for much more extended objects, and principally for the opening " of a new route, which it is represented would become that for the conveyance " of a large proportion of the produce of the far west to the seaboard, and " would also be the channel for the transport of the manufactured lumber to " the great markets of Chicago, &c.

17. " 'No actual surveys or reliable examinations have yet been made with a " view to the construction of such a communication, nor has any information of " practical importance been obtained with reference to it; but the subject is of " such importance as to induce the undersigned to recommend that a general " survey and exploration of the line should be authorized and provided for, " and at no time could such be carried on more effectively and economically by " this department than at the present. The period of such survey should embrace " the winter as well as the summer, as it would be important to observe the " state and character of the rivers and waters at every season. This survey " should not be made with a view to the creation of a water communication " alone, but should be so conducted as to afford full and ample opportunity of " reporting upon the greater facilities, or the reverse, which may be found to " exist for the adoption of a railway communication through that territory, " either in whole or in part, instead of the suggested navigation.'

18. " The above extract, taken in communication with the Order in Council " and with the report from this department upon which that order is based (of " which a copy is transmitted herewith), embraces so fully the principal points " to be attended to in the conducting of the survey that but little more is " required to be added for your guidance.

19. " You will perceive that the first object of the survey is to ascertain the " real capabilities of the river, the obstacles to navigation met with on it, and how " they can best be overcome, which, wherever it is practicable, it is considered " much the most desirable in every point of view to effect by lateral cuts rather " than by dams, in a river such as the Ottawa. The all-important point as to " the sources and capacity of the necessary supplies for the summit level will, of " course, command your attention, as will also the selection of a suitable " terminating harbour on Lake Huron. The character of the tributaries to the " Ottawa,—as to what extent they are navigable,—it will be well it should be " examined into and embraced in your report.

20. "The great length and magnitude of such a water communication as "the one under consideration, and the necessarily very large outlay which "must be involved, renders it desirable that, during the course of your "operations, you should keep in view the importance of determining upon the "requisite works, so that, as each might be completed, direct and immediate "benefit would be had therefrom, pending the execution of others, and that "thus the works might progress as the finances of the province would permit, "and the wants of that section of the country might appear to require. "Looking to this object, it may be well that at such parts of the river as present "very serious obstacles, the removal of which would require a great expen- "diture, you should have the facilities for the making of a railway portage "ascertained, by which means, as alluded to in the Order in Council, the "country would be opened up, and great facilities for the transmission of the "lumbering supplies, agricultural produce, &c., &c., be obtained by comparatively "moderate outlay. It will of course at once occur to you that these obser- "vations refer only to the contemplated improvements, so far as the settlement "of the country; but looking upon these as to be embarked in to form a "channel for the produce of the western countries to the seaboard, which "many advocate, it is clear that, whether such communication be finally by a "rail or by water, it should be in either case continuous and without breaks.

21. "The scale of a water communication to suit such a trade should "necessarily be much greater than what would be required for the local wants "of settlements, &c.; and how far the line indicated is capable of being made "so is one of those most important points to be decided by your survey.

22. "In connection with the information which you will be enabled to give as "to the capabilities of the river for improved navigation, or of *the adjacent "country for the construction of a railway*, it will be highly desirable that you "embrace also in your examination and report a topographical and geological "description of the country traversed, describing particularly the quality of "the soil, nature of the timber,—which latter should be referred to every quarter "of a mile,—opportunities for the establishment of water power, &c."

23. I ought to say that at a point on the river nearer to Ottawa city (Bytown), a very large sum has already been expended in the cutting of the "Chats" canal. The nature of the rock has proved to be such as will cause the outlay on this work to be ultimately much heavier than was at first supposed, and operations are temporarily suspended.

24. So much is clear. The settlement of Michigan, Illinois, and Wisconsin, accessible through the waters of Lake Huron and Lake Michigan, the growth of Chicago, and the mineral wealth of Lake Superior, all point to a rapid extension of the trade of Canada and New England westward. The progress of this western trade may be illustrated by the following extract from a recent paper, for the accuracy of which, however, I cannot myself vouch, as it is extracted from a Chicago paper.

"Canada trade with Chicago.

"Under the present growing relations between this country and Canada, "the character and amount of our trade in that direction becomes a question "of considerable interest. We are at present unable to give the total figures "representing our Canadian trade, as it is impossible correctly to get at a "large amount which is carried on indirectly and through other intervening "American ports. The tables below given will exhibit the amount of imports "and exports by British vessels. It is hardly necessary to remark, that the "real aggregate, especially of exports, is very much increased by shipments "from this port in American vessels, but which eventually find a Canadian "destination. The imports are perhaps more nearly represented. We find it "impossible to give a classified exhibit of the imports and exports for the "present season, but we have appended the total value of both up to "November 6th."

CANADA.

ABSTRACT of Imports and Exports into and from the Port of Chicago, by British Vessels, during the Navigation Seasons of 1855 and 1856.

IMPORTS.

	1854.		1855.	
	No.	Tonnage.	No.	Tonnage.
Steam vessels entered	2	344	14	2,528
Sail " "	3	849	63	14,092
Total	5	1,193	77	16,619
Pig iron - Tons	1,153		818	
Limestone - "	10		—	
Bar iron - "	-		167	
Fish - Barrels	-		1,402	
Oil - "	-		70	
Salt - Bushels	-		75,757	
Firewood - Cords	-		5	
Lumber - Feet	-		7,209,494	
Oatmeal - Barrels	-		5	
Peas - "	-		100	
Total value - Stirling £	5,178 2 6		28,856 6 8	
Total value - Federal $	24,853		138,520	

Number of vessels entered in 1856 - 95

Total value of Imports - - Sterling £40,592 8 4 / Federal $194,843

EXPORTS.

	1854.		1855.	
	No.	Tonnage.	No.	Tonnage.
Steam vessels cleared	2	344	15	2,746
Sail " "	4	1,138	16	11,264
Total	6	1,482	31	13,010
Wheat - Bushels	34,534		402,780	
Flour - Barrels	-		2,633	
Corn - Bushels	24,750		139,802	
Pork - Barrels	1,647		6,091	
Beef -	-		2,271	
Tallow -	51		420	
Hams - lbs.	-		27,053	
Lard -	65,754		31,460	
Hemp - Tons	25		33	
Total value - Sterling £	16,429 7 6		173,992 1 8	
Total value - Federal $	79,101		834,826	

Number of vessels cleared in 1856 - 97

Total value exported - - Sterling £174,838 5 9 / Federal $839,223

25. A glance at the map will show how much would be saved in distance by water communication across Lake Huron, either into Lake Ontario or down the Ottawa valley. As regards the future intercourse with these vast regions, such an opening would be far more important than that originally effected by the Erie canal; and there can be little doubt that Montreal would largely benefit by any such movement. As I have already said, I am not yet in a position to express an opinion on the question, whether the construction of such a canal would be practicable. Its military importance, in relation to the defence of Canada, would be, in its way, at least as great as its commercial value.

26. After speaking of the probable extension of our trade westward, I ought to advert to the increased facilities afforded to shipping, both as regards the entrance to the St. Lawrence and its upper course to the lakes.

27. The colony has reason to congratulate itself on the rapid and steady voyages made during the last summer by the steamers sailing from Quebec and Montreal. Two steam vessels of a superior class, and of 750 effective horse-power, have been added to the establishment of towing vessels in the Lower St. Lawrence. The contract for this service has been made for ten years from 1st February 1855. It was in one of the vessels employed on this service that in the course of last summer I visited the Lower St. Lawrence, Gaspé, and the Bay of Chaleurs. New lighthouses have been erected on Cape Rosier on the west end of Anticosti, and at the Straits of Belle Isle, which will shortly have done something, though not all that is required, to facilitate the entry of ships into the St. Lawrence. The new apparatus received from France for these lights is now being fitted up. Besides these, a light is preparing at Forteau Bay, which will, however, probably not be in operation before the spring of 1858.

28. On the Upper St. Lawrence, between Kingston and Brockville, principally amongst the Thousand Islands, the establishment of the tug service, and the frequent running of steamers, latterly by night, made it necessary to establish several small lights along this intricate part of the river, which is now lighted as a street.

29. Those finished and lighted since 1855 are nine in number. A light-house is being erected near Snake Island, at the entrance of Kingston Harbour, in Lake Ontario; and one has been erected on a dangerous island or shoal called the "Scotch Bonnet," in Lake Ontario, very much in the line of vessels running between Cobourg and Kingston.

30. In Lake Huron the lighthouses erected since 1855 are one on Nottawasaga Island, off Collingwood Harbour; one on the Isle of Coves, in the narrow between Lake Huron and Georgian Bay; one on Christian Island. These lighthouses are so far advanced as to permit of temporary lights being exhibited, pending the arrival and fitting-up of the permanent apparatus. One on Chantry Island, off Saugeen Harbour, is nearly completed. Others are to be erected on Lake Huron and Georgian Bay, on Griffiths Island, Point Clark, Badgley Island, and the Ducks, about midway in the main lake, and at St. Joseph's Island.

31. I ought to add, that the opening of the Grand Trunk Railway from Montreal to Toronto brings into rapid and close communication a number of cities and towns formerly cut off one from the other during winter by a long and tiresome journey. The distance from Montreal to Toronto (330 miles) is performed in fourteen hours.

32. The patriotic feeling which animated the militia of Canada, and which I had the honour to describe in my despatch of January 11, No. 9, has in no way declined. So numerous were the offers to raise volunteer troops and companies, that it became necessary to procure increased powers for accepting such services. This was done by the Act of last session, 19 Vict. Cap. 44., under which enactment, however, the supplementary companies or troops so formed receive no pay for their drill.

33. When, in addition to this circumstance, it is considered that all these gentlemen find their own uniforms, I trust Her Majesty's Government will have reason to be satisfied with the disinterested loyalty and zeal of the force so organized.

34. As the full and able report of the Adjutant General of Militia has been already transmitted to you, I need not now enter at greater length into this subject.

35. On Indian matters I forbear to write at length in this despatch. The commission, whose appointment I announced in my despatch of July 22, No. 112, is now sitting, and have not yet reported at length.

36. Perhaps after all there is no public department which will furnish a test of the progress of the country better than that afforded by the post office. An increase in the correspondence of a country marks at once the increase of business and of education. Every letter implies some reason for writing it, as well as the power of doing so on the part of some one individual. If the reason be not one of business, we may presume that it represents a feeling of family affection or friendly intercourse at least of equal value.

37. The number of post offices too is of material importance. An office established in a remote part of the country will probably for some time be

CANADA.

conducted at a pecuniary loss to the public, and under the old system of colonial government would not have been established at all until the district was thoroughly settled. But to estimate the real value of each such post office by its money receipts would be very unjust. Nothing probably tends more to remove the reluctance to settle in an out-of-the-way place than the conviction that a man does not thereby forfeit the means of communicating with his friends and relatives. The establishment of such post offices is a sort of premium given by government to promote settlement; their bearing on the public business and on the administration of the government is also most material; a complaint can be sent or a petition forwarded to the seat of government without delay. The report of parliamentary proceedings and of the progress of public events keeps up the settler's interest in the business of the country, and makes him feel that he is not cut off from his countrymen, or entirely severed from a civilized community.

38. These are the views which I entertain of the value of a post office; and I therefore think that the present Postmaster General, the Honourable Robert Spence, is entitled to great credit for the zeal with which he has laboured in spreading the influence of his department as widely as possible throughout Canada.

39. The establishment of the money order system is also due to his exertions, and has been, I am persuaded, attended with great benefit to the country. The advantages derived from it will increase as the wealth of the province increases.

40. The following Table, Sir, will show the rate of growth in the number of post offices and of letters:

A.

TABULAR STATEMENT of the Progress of the Post Office in Canada since 1851 inclusive.

——	Number of Post Offices in operation.	Miles of established Post Route.	Number of Miles of annual Mail Travel.	Number of Letters passing by Post per Annum.	Money Order Offices. —— Number.	Amount of Money Order Transactions.	Number of Registered Letters passing by Post.
April 1851	601	7,595	2,487 000	2,132,000			
„ 1852	840	8,618	2,931,373	3,729,752			
„ 1853	1,016	9,122	3,430,474	4,258,592		Issue of Money Orders. ——	
„ 1854	1,166	10,027	4,015,816	5,114,200			
„ 1855	1,293	11,192	4,559,761	6,066,692			
„ 1856	1,424	12,000	5,000,000	7,500,000	A. 157	6,000*l.* per week.	B. 450,000

Note.—A. Money Order system first organized in Canada in February 1855.
B. Present Registered Letter system commenced in May 1855.

Post Office Department, Toronto,
October 21, 1856.

41. It must be observed that the number of miles of mail travel represents the facilities for the despatch and receipt of letters by more frequent delivery as well as by the larger number of stations. It affords, therefore, the more accurate test of the increased benefit derived by the public of Canada from the recent changes.

42. A complete copy of Mr. Spence's Report* is appended to this despatch.

43. One of the most important measures which was passed by my predecessor, and which I have had to carry out, was that for the settlement of the much vexed question of the Clergy Reserves (18 Vict. c. 2.)

44. I have no doubt that there are many persons who still dispute the propriety of passing such a measure at all. There are others who attack with equal vehemence the moderate form in which it was at length adopted, and who object to the commutation of the incomes of the present incumbents so as practically to supply a permanent endowment on the part, not of the Government, but of the Church Society. It is not my business to vindicate the measure itself, though perhaps the vehemence with which it has been assailed by the two extreme parties may be held by some to be the best voucher for its justice and moderation.

* This report being very voluminous is omitted.

45. The following statement will show what progress has been made in carrying out the pecuniary provisions of the Act:

B.

In re Clergy Reserves.

Commutation Settlement with Clergy.

		£	s.	d.
18 Vict. c. 2.	Amount paid Church of England - - - -	279,988	19	10
	,, ,, Scotland - -	129,688	16	0
	,, Wesleyan - - - -	9,915	1	6
	,, Roman Catholic - - - -	17,396	7	6
	Amount retained to pay Roman Catholic Clergy when called for - - - - - -	3,536	7	6
		£ 440,525	12	4
18 Vict. c. 2.	Amount of uncommuted stipends and widow annuity fund - - - - - - (This amount is invested, and held by the government.)	46,883	18	3
18 Vict. c. 2. 19 Vict. c. 16.	Amount (now) distributing amongst the various municipalities of Upper Canada, being balance in hand on 31st December last to the credit of Upper Canada -	304,423	7	6
	Amount of balance on hand to credit of Lower Canada for distribution on 31st December last - - - This latter amount, 24,723*l.* 2*s.* 9*d.*, is not being distributed, as the House of Assembly adopted a resolution (Journals of 1856, May 7, p. 465,) to repeal so much of 18 Vict. c. 2. as provides for the apportionment of the fund, and to apply 75,000*l.* to the building of gaols and court-houses in Lower Canada; and it is understood that next session a measure to that effect will be introduced by the government.	24,723	2	9
	Amount now on hand for Upper Canada, to be apportioned after 31st December next (with the additional sums that may be received prior to that day), say - -	90,000	0	0
	Ditto for Lower Canada, say - - - -	2,000	0	0
	Estimate of approximate value of clergy lands still remaining unsold, and monies due on lands sold to Upper Canada Municipalities Fund, and for future yearly distribution under 19 Vict. c. 34. - - -	826,128	0	0
	Ditto - ditto Lower Canada - - - -	149,365	0	0
		£ 975,493	0	0

I value unsold lands at 10*s.* an acre in Upper Canada, and at 5*s.* an acre in Lower Canada.

The commutation is fully settled and completed; the only matter open is the value of certain debentures, which does not interfere with the amounts above mentioned.

(Signed) Jos. Morrison,
Receiver General.

46. My next business is to give some short account of what has been done under the Act for the commutation of the seignorial tenure; an Act of which the importance will be appreciated hereafter better than it now can be. It is in truth an Act for doing judicially and by course of law that which almost everywhere else has been effected only by bloodshed and revolution.

47. Is there any country in which the relics of the feudal system have disappeared without foreign invasion or domestic tumult? Yet such, I believe, will have been the case in Canada.

48. Some historian of the British Empire and its colonies may probably hereafter refer to the long existence of these rights as a proof of the conservative tendencies of English rule, and our observance of public faith. He may wonder, not that the seigneurs should have been, as they now are, with compensation, deprived of certain privileges, but rather that such privileges should have lasted so long.

49. In the recent work of an eminent French historian*, I find it stated that in the States General of 1615 the demand was made on the part of the

* A. Thierry, Hist. du Tiers Etat. I. p. 117.

CANADA.

Commons of France, "Que défense soit faite à tous gentilshommes ou autres "de contraindre personne d'aller moudre à leurs moulins?" Will it be readily believed that in the year 1856 the legal existence of this very grievance was adjudicated on and affirmed by the assembled judges of Canada, and was practically dealt with by a legislative msasure?

50. I am convinced, therefore, that whatever loss in small particulars may have fallen on some of the seigneurs by the Act abolishing the feudal tenure and duties, and whatever difficulties may have stood in its way, the general opinion will hereafter be that the time had arrived when such abolition was absolutely required. The existence of the "banalité" or the "lods et ventes" as substantive rights was wholly inconsistent with the present state of society, and with the conditions of commerce between man and man in England or its colonies, more especially in a colony bordering on the United States of America.

51. We ought, I repeat, to rejoice at their abolition by a measure which professes to injure no one, and which recognizes the principle of full and complete compensation to all concerned.

52. Whether that principle will in practice have been carried out to its full extent I cannot yet say; but I have no reason to suppose that any gross injustice will be inflicted. I know of none such. The following statement may serve to show the progress hitherto made in giving effect to the Act:

SEIGNORIAL TENURE.

STATEMENT exhibiting the Number of Seignories in the Districts of Ottawa, Montreal, and Three Rivers, in which the Cadastres are completed, also the Progress towards Completion of them in other Seignories in the said Districts, on the 27th October 1856.

Number of Seignories in the Districts of	Preparatory Work completed.	Wheat, Corvées, and other casual Rights estimated.	Emplacements estimated.	Cadastres completed and closed.
Ottawa and Montreal, sixty-five -	64	45	40	9
District of Three Rivers, thirty-two -	26	17	19	1
Fiefs in the Districts of Ottawa, Montreal, and Three Rivers, sixteen - - - -	9	6	6	—

	£	s.	d.
Approximate statement of the annual amount payable to seignors in the districts of Ottawa, Montreal, and the Three Rivers, for interest on lods et ventes - - - - - - - -	23,302	19	3
Statement of amounts paid to seignors in the districts of Ottawa, Montreal, and Three Rivers, from the 25th July 1856 up to the 26th October 1856, on account of interest accrued on lods et ventes in their respective seignories up to the 1st July 1856 - - - -	24,079	16	7
Statement of expenses attending the working of the seignorial commission in the districts of Ottawa, Montreal, and Three Rivers, from its organization (January 1855) up to the 1st October 1856 - -	6,719	9	8
Which sum (6,719*l.* 9*s.* 8*d.*) for eighteen months gives a monthly average of 320*l.*, or for one year - - - -	3,840	0	0

In addition to the above the commissioners have paid during the period above mentioned the sum of 339*l.* 12*s.* 6*d.* to the surveyor and to other parties connected with the surveying department.

Districts of Quebec, Kamouraska, and Gaspé.

200 land rolls (cadastres) or schedules have been received up to the 31st October 1856. (250 will be about the total number.)

Approximate amount of lods et ventes to be paid to seignors in the above-mentioned districts will be between 13,000*l.* and 14,000*l.* Amount paid about 11,000*l.*

131 plans have been made and copied by the surveyor.

53. The progress of education in Upper Canada has always been intimately connected with our municipal system, and has undoubtedly done much to promote the general progress of the country.

54. The contents of the able report* of Dr. Ryerson, Chief Superintendent of Education for the year 1855, are of deep interest to the whole community. I annex a copy of this report to the present despatch, as well as one of that made by the Superintendent of Education for Lower Canada.*

55. It may, however, be well to state here some of the principal results given by Dr. Ryerson.

	£
Legislative grant apportioned to municipalities for common schools, 1855	24,474
Local municipal assessment for the same purposes	45,123
Increase over the preceding year	12,126
Local trustees school assessments for 1855	109,711
Increase over preceding year	16,045
Amount expended on school sites and buildings	34,272
Increase	12,115
Amount of teachers' salaries	170,027
Increase	25,309
Total expenditure for common school purposes, 1855	224,818
Increase	23,700
Total number of pupils	227,864
Increase	23,696
Common schools open	3,325
Increase	81

There were last year 3,710 educational institutions in Upper Canada, on which 288,998*l.* 13*s.* 8*d.* was expended.

56. With regard to the normal school at Toronto, the Chief Superintendent says, "The efficiency of the normal school has in every respect been maintained, "and in some respects I think improved. The practical and thorough "character of the mode of teaching, as far as the limited period of attendance "on the part of student-teachers generally admits, favourably compares with "that which I have witnessed in any other country, as also the energy and "zeal of the able masters. The demand for teachers from the normal school, "and the remuneration offered them, have increased in proportion as they "have become known, and much more rapidly than it is possible to train "them."

57. It is much to be regretted that a strong and bitter feeling has been excited on the subject of separate schools in Upper Canada. Dr. Ryerson states deliberately, "No example of proselytism under its operation" (that of the common school system) "has ever occurred, and no charge of partiality "in its administration has ever been substantiated."

58. I have no reason to doubt the truth of these assertions, and upon the whole I am advised that to leave the school law of Upper Canada in its present condition as regards separate schools is far better than to aggravate the disputes which have arisen, and thus create matter for fresh controversy, by causing the government to propose to Parliament any modification of its provisions.

59. Dr. Ryerson sums up his whole statement in the following words, to which I desire especially to call your attention:

60. "During the last ten years, while the aggregate population of Upper "Canada has increased about three tenths, the actual attendance of pupils at "the public schools and the amount raised for the salaries of teachers has "considerably more than doubled, and a corresponding improvement has taken "place in the character and qualifications of teachers, the methods of teaching, "the character and condition of schoolhouses, and efficiency of the schools, "besides the introduction of an uniform series of text books, maps, apparatus, "and libraries. And when it is recollected that there is no state school tax in "Upper Canada, that the school tax is imposed by each municipality for "itself, and at its own option, under the influence of no other compulsion than "that of public duty, and legislative aid to a limited amount is offered, it is

* These reports being very voluminous are omitted.

CANADA.

" most gratifyng to know that this system of national organization, combined " with voluntary local municipal action and co-operation, is successful beyond " comparison; so much so, that the amount raised by local self-imposed " taxation on the part of the people of Upper Canada for the salaries of school " teachers is larger in proportion to population than that raised for the same " purpose in the older and larger state of New York, and the average time of " keeping our schools open during each year is one month more than that of " keeping the public schools open in the state of New York, and two months " longer than the average time each year of keeping the public schools open " in the state of Massachusetts."

61. With regard to Lower Canada, steps have been taken by the Honourable Mr. Chauveau, the able and zealous Superintendent of the department in that section of the province, to organize model and normal schools, both at Montreal and Quebec, under the Act of last session. At the latter city the school will be connected with Laval College, and will therefore probably be resorted to by Roman Catholics rather than by Protestants. At Montreal there will be two schools, one of which will be practically Catholic, and the other, being in connection with M'Gill University, will no doubt attract the masters destined to teach the Protestant population. No legal exclusion, however, from these schools, on religious grounds, will exist; but there can be little doubt that in practice they will respectively afford the means of instruction to Catholics and Protestants desirous of educating themselves as teachers.

62. I now close this miscellaneous despatch, which I submit to Her Majesty's Government, not as containing a complete or satisfactory account of the present condition of Canada, but rather as indicating the several points in which the measures of my predecessor are being carried out by me; and the progress of the people, commenced under his administration, may be said yet to be in course of development.

I have, &c.,

The Right Hon. H. Labouchere, &c. &c. &c.

(Signed) EDMUND HEAD.

NOVA SCOTIA.

NOVA SCOTIA.

No. 2.

No. 2.

Copy of DESPATCH from Lieut.-Governor Sir J. Gaspard le Marchant to the Right Hon. H. Labouchere.

(No. 23.)

Government House, Halifax, February 14, 1856.

(Received February 25, 1856.)

Sir,

I have the honour to transmit herewith the Blue Book for the year 1854, accompanied with a letter addressed to me by the Provincial Secretary, explanatory of the causes which have retarded the earlier transmission of these books for the last three years, and promising that for the future no such inconvenient delay in preparing and forwarding them to Her Majesty's Government shall again occur.

Feb. 13, 1856.

I have, &c.

(Signed) J. GASPARD LE MARCHANT.

The Right Hon. H. Labouchere, &c. &c. &c.

Enclosure in No. 2.

Provincial Secretary's Office, Halifax,
February 13, 1856.

SIR,

YOUR Excellency having required from me an explanation of the circumstances of the Blue Book for the years 1853 and 1854 not having been yet prepared for transmission to England, I beg leave to state, for your information, some of the causes which have led to that result.

I feel, however, that these, which have been reported to me by the principal clerk in my department, who for many years past has been charged with the particular duty referred to, will not be regarded either by your Excellency or Her Majesty's Government as affording a sufficient excuse for the delay which has thus taken place, and which your Excellency has endeavoured to avert by urgent and repeated admonitions to me, since I assumed, in April 1854, the office which I have the honour to hold.

Painfully conscious of this official irregularity, and deeply regretting the inconvenience which it may have occasioned, I venture to assure your Excellency that I have taken such measures as will effectually prevent the recurrence of it, and as will ensure the preparation and transmission to Her Majesty's Government at the earliest possible period in this present year, of a Blue Book for the year 1855 framed in strict accordance with the instructions contained in the Circular Despatch of the 22d of September last.

To that end I purpose immediately to increase, to the utmost extent of the means at my disposal, the staff of clerks in my department; a measure which I have found by experience absolutely necessary to its accomplishment.

The Blue Book now handed to your Excellency for transmission to Downing Street is for 1854, and that for the preceding year, now in course of preparation, shall as soon as possible be forwarded also.

The principal clerk in this office, in his statement to me, to which I have already adverted, says—

"It became apparent in the first year of your tenure of office as Provincial "Secretary that the book for 1853, which from unavoidable causes was in- "complete, could scarcely be furnished sooner than that for 1854; and it was "deemed advisable to prepare and forward that for the latter year first, as "conveying the latest intelligence.

"On myself, as principal clerk, devolved the preparation of the abstracts of "trade and revenue and expenditure returns, and other important portions "of the book.

"Owing to changes in the department, and the mode of obtaining the "returns, and more particularly in consequence of the unusually late period "of the publication of the public accounts and returns upon which it has been the "practice to rely for procuring much of the information which I am charged "to collect, there has been a considerable increase of labour, and an unavoid- "able postponement of the period at which it is possible on my part to "complete these portions of the book, without a change of system, which for "the prevention of future inconvenience it will be necessary to introduce.

"Ordinarily, the legislative journals and public documents of the year are "published in June or July at the latest; but in the past year these did not "reach this office until the middle of October, and the returns of 1854 were "from this cause practically inaccessible until that time, when, from the "pressure of other avocations, the officer referred to was unable to give "exclusive attention to the preparation of the accounts and tables involving "the necessity of the conversion from currency to sterling of every item of "receipt and expenditure, and imposing the obligation of delaying to complete "the tables until calls for information are answered by other departments."

I have, &c.

(Signed) LEWIS MORRIS WILLIAMS.

His Excellency Sir J. Gaspard Le Marchant,
&c. &c. &c.

NEW BRUNSWICK.

NEW BRUNSWICK.

No 3.

No. 3.

COPY of DESPATCH from Lieut. Gov. the Hon. J. H. T. MANNERS SUTTON to the Right Hon. H. LABOUCHERE.

(No. 4.) Government House, Fredericton, New Brunswick, January, 23, 1857.

SIR, (Received February, 23, 1857.)

1. I have the honour to transmit to you in duplicate the Blue Book of this province for the year 1855.

These returns do not, it is true, present any marks of decided improvement or progress in prosperity; but, when considered in connexion with the circumstances of the time to which they refer, they must, I think, be regarded as being on the whole of a satisfactory character.

2. You are, Sir, aware, from my Blue Book Despatch for the preceding year, 1854, that that year, although distinguished at its commencement by an unprecedented extension of commercial operations in the province, closed in gloom. At the commencement of the year 1855 large stocks of goods imported during the previous year remained unsold in the hands of the merchants here, and during the year the staple articles of export, viz., timber, wood-goods, and ships, were depressed in value, while freights were high. This condition of affairs necessarily exercised a very unfavourable influence on the public revenue of the province as well as upon its trade.

3. But, although the year 1855 was one of commercial languor here, it was unmarked by any event which would at any time have given rise to the impression, or even justified the apprehension, that the commercial depression which existed would outlive the temporary causes to which it was clearly attributable; and indeed, notwithstanding the depressed state of the trade, and consequent diminution of the revenue of the province, during the year 1855, the occurrences of that year afford more than one subject of sincere congratulation.

4. Firstly, then, the sanitary condition of the province, generally very good, was never better than during the period referred to, although the violence with which the cholera had raged in some localities, and especially in St. John, during the preceding autumn, and the suddenness with which the disease disappeared, seemed to afford but little prospect that the province would enjoy a complete immunity from its recurrence during the succeeding summer.

5. Again, much of the produce of the province, both lumber and fish, which would, in a similar condition of affairs, have been, previously to the existence of the Reciprocity Treaty, of little value, if not absolutely unsaleable, found a ready market in the United States; and thus, while it is clear that the trade and industry of the province has already derived great benefit from the treaty referred to, abundant proof has been afforded that still greater benefits may hereafter be expected from the operation of this treaty.

6. Nor was the depression which existed in the timber trade entirely devoid of countervailing advantages; for the absence during the year 1855 of those inducements which have too often led farmers here to regard the careful management of their farms as secondary in importance to the success of some speculation in lumber, coupled with the high price of provisions, gave a stimulus to the prosecution of agricultural operations, which was much needed at the time, and from which it may perhaps be hoped that permanent benefit may flow. At all events, I believe that there is both an increased appreciation of the difficulty of successfully combining together the two

very different occupations of a lumberer and a farmer, and a growing sense of the importance of introducing into the existing system of agriculture here the improvements without which it cannot be expected that the amount of agricultural produce will be proportionate to the extent and natural fertility of the land under cultivation.

7. In connexion with this point I may remark, that, while it would obviously be impossible, and if it were possible it would be unwise, in a colony where labour is dear, capital comparatively scarce, and land very cheap, to conduct agricultural operations on the same scale or according to the system which has been with success adopted in the highly-farmed districts of Great Britain, where labour is comparatively cheap, capital abundant, and land very dear, there are, nevertheless, certain primary rules which are as applicable here as in Great Britain; and I am confident that the adherence to these rules, with the introduction of such improvements in implements and in the culture of the soil as science and practical experience combined may dictate, would be attended with success; for the soil is fertile, and the climate, although severe in the winter, is during the remainder of the year remarkably favourable to the progress of vegetation. Indeed the marvellous rapidity with which crops of every description, and especially root crops, attain maturity, goes far to counteract, if it does not entirely compensate, for the shortness of the summer.

8. Nor should I omit to bring before your notice that during the year 1855 events occurred which afford ground for believing that the mineral wealth of the province will now be turned to far better account than it was before. For some years previously to the year referred to, no doubt had been entertained of the existence in the province of iron, coal, copper, and various other minerals; and indeed some progress had been made in working mines which had been discovered; but the conflict which arose between the licensees of the Crown, to whom the right to the minerals belonged in virtue of their licences, and the landowners, materially impeded the extension of mining operations, and in some instances stopped those which had been already commenced.

9. In the session, however, of 1855, an Act was passed, entitled "An Act relating to Mines and Minerals," and Her Majesty's assent was subsequently given to that Act, which contained a suspending clause. The conflicting claims which had so seriously interfered with the development of the mineral wealth of the province were thus settled, and I hope and believe that the province will now derive the full benefit of the valuable mineral deposits which are no doubt in existence here.

10. I have the satisfaction also of believing that the admission, by the Reciprocity Treaty, of the produce of the fisheries here, free of duty, into the United States, has given a stimulus to this branch of industry; and I trust that a full appreciation of the true value of the fisheries may lead to greater vigour in the enforcement of the regulations necessary for their preservation.

11. You are aware that shipbuilding is carried on here to a large extent, and with great success; and, under ordinary circumstances, a considerable number of ships are annually either built here under contract for owners in the United Kingdom, or, having been built on speculation, are despatched with a cargo across the Atlantic, and sold on their arrival at the port of their destination. In a preceding passage in this Despatch I have adverted to the fact, that in the year 1855 there was not the same demand as in the preceding year for new ships at Liverpool or elsewhere in the United Kingdom, and, accordingly, the number of ships built here during the year 1855 was less than that of the ships built in the year 1854. But the enclosed Return, marked A., shows that, even under the unfavourable circumstances referred to, no less than 95 vessels, of an aggregate tonnage of 54,561 tons, were built in this province in the year 1855. The Returns marked B., C., D., and E., which show the number and tonnage of the ships registered at the several ports of the province, afford a gratifying proof of the commercial enterprise of its inhabitants. Before I quit this subject,

Encl. 1.

Encls. 2, 3, 4, and 5.

NEW BRUNSWICK.

I should remark that the ships annually built in this province, and sold elsewhere, (of which both the number and aggregate tonnage is, as I before observed, usually large,) are in fact exported manufactures of a very valuable character, the more valuable as articles of export because their value is derived chiefly from the labour employed and the skill displayed in their construction. But the ships thus built here, and sold elsewhere, cannot properly appear in the export returns, and these returns therefore present in this respect a very inadequate record of the value of the industrial produce of the province for which a market is annually found elsewhere than in the province.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. H. T. MANNERS SUTTON.

The Right Hon. H. Labouchere,
&c. &c. &c.

Encl. 1. in No. 3.

Enclosure 1. in No. 3.

A.

ABSTRACT of new Vessels registered in the Province of New Brunswick, and Vessels built in the same Place for Owners in the United Kingdom, but not registered during the Years 1854 and 1855 respectively.

	No. of Ships.	Tons.	No. of Ships.	Tons.	No. of Ships.	Tons.
1854.						
Saint John:						
New Vessels registered - -	97	70,801				
Built for Owners in the United Kingdom - - -	11	10,578				
			108	81,379		
Miramichi:						
New Vessels registered - -	14	8,642				
Built for Owners in the United Kingdom - - -	9	7,784				
			23	16,426		
Saint Andrew's:						
New Vessels registered - -	3	635				
Built for Owners in the United Kingdom - - -	1	986				
			4	1,621		
					135	99,426
1855.						
Saint John:						
New Vessels registered - -	75	39,486				
Built for Owners in the United Kingdom - - -	1	1,500				
			76	40,986		
Miramichi:						
New Vessels registered - -	- -	- -	14	11,671		
Saint Andrew's:						
New Vessels registered - -	- -	- -	5	1,904		
					95	54,561
Decrease in 1855 as compared with 1854 - - - -	- -	- -	- -	- -	40	44,865

Custom House, Saint John, N. B.,
9th February 1856.

(Signed) W. SMITH,
Registrar.

NEW BRUNSWICK.

Enclosure 2. in No. 3.

B.

ABSTRACT of Account of Shipping belonging to the Port of Saint John, New Brunswick, on the 31st December 1855, as furnished to the Chief Registrar of Shipping, London. Encl. 2. in No. 3.

	No. of Ships.	Tons.	No. of Ships.	Tons.	No. of Ships.	Tons.
Total Amount of last Year's Account on 31st December 1854	- -	- -	- -	- -	581	118,851
Add One Vessel struck off erroneously by late Controller	- -	- -	- -	- -	1	844
					582	119,695
Deduct Difference between Tonnage under Act 8 & 9 Vict. cap. 89. and Merchant Shipping Act 1854 on four Vessels	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	240
					582	119,455
Struck off the foregoing Account, viz.:						
Vessels wrecked, burnt, foundered, missing, or unseaworthy	- -	- -	40	10,157		
Sold to Foreigners	- -	- -	6	2,154		
Registered de novo at St. John, and transferred to other Ports	- -	- -	54	27,258		
					100	39,569
Balance of existing Vessels registered up to 31st December 1854	- -	- -	- -	- -	482	79,886
Add Vessels registered in 1855:						
New Vessels	- -	- -	75	39,486		
Registered de novo	- -	- -	22	2,497		
Foreign Vessels	- -	- -	5	495		
			102	42,478		
Struck off in 1855:						
Vessels wrecked, burnt, foundered, missing, or unseaworthy	5	774				
Sold to Foreigners	1	529				
Registered de novo, and transferred to other Ports	12	10,610				
			18	11,913		
					84	30,565
Existing Vessels on 31st December 1855, at St John, N. B.	- -	- -	- -	- -	566	110,451

Custom House, Saint John, N. B., 9th February 1856.

(Signed) W. SMITH, Registrar of Shipping.

Enclosure 3. in No. 3.

Encl. 3. in No. 3.

C.

ABSTRACT of Account of Shipping belonging to the Port of Miramichi, New Brunswick, on the 31st December 1855, as furnished by the Registrar at that Port, for the Chief Registrar of Shipping, London.

	No. of Ships.	Tons.	No. of Ships.	Tons.
Total Amount of last Year's Account	- -	- -	103	10,063
Struck off, viz.:				
Registered de novo, and transferred to other Ports	- -	- -	10	4,394
Balance of Vessels registered up to 31st December 1854, still in existence	- -	- -	93	5,669
Add Vessels registered in 1855:				
New Vessels	14	11,671		
Registered de novo	2	483		
Struck off in 1855:	16	12,154		
Registered de novo, and transferred to other Ports	4	2,554		
			12	9,600
Total Number of existing Vessels at Miramichi on 31st December 1855	- -	- -	105	15,269

Custom House, Saint John, N. B., 9th February 1856.

(Signed) W. SMITH, Registrar of Shipping at St. John, N. B.

NEW BRUNSWICK.

Enclosure 4. in No. 3.

D.

Encl. 4. in No. 3. ABSTRACT of Account of Shipping belonging to the Port of Saint Andrew's, New Brunswick, on the 31st December 1855, as furnished by the Registrar at that Port for the Chief Registrar of Shipping, London.

	No. of Ships.	Tons.	No. of Ships.	Tons.
Total Amount of last Year's Account - -	- -	- -	193	11,696
Struck off, viz.:				
Vessels wrecked, burnt, foundered, missing, or unseaworthy - - - -	1	19		
Registered de novo, and transferred to other Ports - - - - -	12	1,268		
			13	1,287
Balance of Vessels registered up to 31st December 1854, still in existence - - -	- -	- -	180	10,409
Add Vessels registered in 1855:				
New Vessels - - - -	7	1,948		
Registered de novo - - -	8	215		
			15	2,163
Total Number of existing Vessels at Saint Andrew's, N. B., on 31st December 1855 -	- -	- -	195	12,572

Custom House, Saint John, N. B., 9th February 1856.

(Signed) W. SMITH, Registrar of the Port of Saint John, N. B.

Encl. 5. in No. 3.

Enclosure 5. in No. 3.

E.

ABSTRACT of Shipping belonging to the Province of New Brunswick on the 31st December 1854 and 31st December 1855 respectively.

PORTS.	1854.		1855.	
	No. of Ships.	Tons.	No. of Ships.	Tons.
Saint John - - - - -	582	119,695	566	110,451
Miramichi - - - - -	103	10,063	105	15,269
Saint Andrew's - - - -	193	11,696	195	12,572
Total - - - -	878	141,454	866	138,292
Decrease in 1855 - -	- -	- -	12	3,612

Custom House, Saint John, N. B., 9th February 1856.

(Signed) W. SMITH, Registrar of the Port of Saint John, N. B.

PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND.

PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND.

No. 4.

No. 4.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Lieutenant Governor Sir D. DALY to the Right Hon. H. LABOUCHERE.

(No. 60.) Government House, Prince Edward Island, December 15, 1856.

(Received January 14, 1857.)

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to transmit to you herewith the "Blue Book" for 1855 in duplicate.

2. The statements of revenue and expenditure which it contains do not exhibit any striking change from those of the preceding year.

3. The falling off in the revenue of 1855, which had been anticipated, was not considerable, and is attributable to the operation of the free trade principle introduced by the Reciprocity Treaty with the United States, as well as to the great depression in the shipping interest, which lessened the importations generally.

4. The surplus revenue of previous years, however, renders this decrease unimportant, and when the very low rate of duty levied on articles of general consumption is considered, the financial resources of the island may be said to be in a sound and satisfactory state.

5. With reference to the excess of expenditure over revenue in the past year, it has been in a great measure occasioned by the increased amount required for carrying out the provisions of the Free Education Act, together with the grant of 2,000*l.* to the Patriotic Fund.

6. A competent master having been procured from the seminary at Glasgow, the Normal School for teachers is now in complete operation, and the benefits of the Free School system are extended to over one sixth of the whole population.

7. The exertions of the "Royal Agricultural Society" are continued in a very satisfactory manner, and gratifying evidence is not wanting of increased industry, both in the breadth of cultivation and attention to the introduction of improvements in agricultural operations generally.

8. The operation of the "Land Purchase Bill" promises so far to be successfully carried out, and consequently the great cause of discontent which has so long existed to be done away with by the gradual absorption of leasehold tenures, should the local government succeed in its views, the details of which I have already had the honour of submitting for the consideration of Her Majesty's Government.

9. The condition of the mercantile community is prosperous, and commercial operations are much facilitated by the establishment of the "Bank of Prince Edward Island," which has been for some months in operation.

10. The "New York, Newfoundland, and London Telegraph Company" have laid a submarine cable which is now in good working order, connecting this island with the neighbouring colonies, Newfoundland, and the United States, towards the establishment of which the local legislature has granted 300*l.*

11. The proceedings of the Corporation of Charlotte Town have been attended with considerable success in promoting order, by the establishment of a small police force, and such other improvements as their means at present permit.

12. The militia of the island has no effective character; according to law the population between the ages of sixteen and sixty are liable to serve. The regimental strength of the officers has been reorganized.

13. One volunteer infantry corps only, supplying their own clothing, and supplied with arms and accoutrements from the ordnance stores, is as yet in a state of efficiency, but is small in numbers.

14. I am happy to be enabled to assure you that I am not aware of any circumstance likely to disturb the peaceful condition of the colony.

15. I regret that I have been unable to transmit the Blue Book at an earlier period, as hitherto my best exertions have not been successful in procuring the necessary returns more expeditiously; and I regret to be obliged to add, that the inadequate assistance provided for the principal public departments, and more especially that of the Colonial Secretary, where the Blue Book is prepared, has chiefly contributed to this delay.

I have, &c.
(Signed) D. DALY,
Lieutenant Governor.

The Right Hon. H. Labouchere,
&c. &c. &c.

NEW-FOUNDLAND.

No. 5.

NEWFOUNDLAND.

No. 5.

Copy of DESPATCH from Governor Darling to the Right Hon. H. Labouchere, M.P.

(No. 76.)

Government House, St. John's, August 31, 1856.

(Received October 6, 1856.)

Sir,

In transmitting herewith the duplicate Blue Book for the year 1855, I beg leave to accompany it with the following Report, which I was unable, for the reasons stated in my Despatch No. 55. of the 14th June last, to prepare in time to be forwarded with the original document.

Form of Government.

2. The year to which this compilation of returns relates is remarkable in the history of Newfoundland, as that in which the system of civil administration known under the designation of "Responsible Government,"—being in effect a system under which the policy of the colonial government, in all questions not essentially involving interests strictly Imperial, is directed by the "well-understood" wishes of the inhabitants, as expressed through their representatives in the colonial legislature,—was, after a long struggle between contending parties, partly as to general principles and partly as to details of arrangement, finally established and put into practical operation.

The Governor.—The Executive Council.

3. Under the form of government referred to, which is similar to that for some time past established in the other North American colonies, the sovereign is represented and the constitutional power of the Crown is exercised by a Governor appointed by Her Majesty's commission, who in the execution of such commission is enjoined by its terms to act with the assistance and advice of an "Executive Council."

The conditions of the constitution of this council are, that it shall not exceed seven in number; that the members shall be appointed by the Governor, in the name and on the behalf of Her Majesty, by instruments under the public seal of the island; and that they shall hold their places during Her Majesty's pleasure. In respect to its composition, no rules or limitations are imposed upon the Governor; but as the government must be carried on with the advice and assistance of this body, and at the same time in union with the opinions and decisions of a representative body, it follows that the Executive Council must be composed of persons possessing the confidence of the majority of the representative body, and who themselves holding seats in either branch of the legislature are capable of effectually influencing its deliberations, while it is at the same time obviously convenient that it should include the principal officers of the government and the heads of departments through which the public business is transacted. To meet the difficulty which would arise from changes in the composition or in the opinions of the representative body, and the consequent withdrawal of their confidence from the Executive Council, the tenure of the members of the latter body, viz., "during the Queen's pleasure," is technically sufficient; but in practice the exercise of the power residing in the Crown is usually obviated, in accordance with the constitutional proceeding in the Imperial system, by the resignation on the part of the members, both of their seats in council and of the offices they hold, whenever they find, on the one hand, that they are unable to secure in the legislature the requisite support of the policy to which they are pledged or have avowed, or, on the other hand, that the Governor, exercising the discretion which the Royal Commission and Instructions confer upon him, shall deem it his duty to act in important questions contrary to the advice of his council. In the first Executive Council constituted under the new system in Newfoundland the offices

of Attorney-General, Colonial Secretary, Treasurer, Surveyor-General, and Solicitor-General were, upon the resignation of the former holders, conferred upon members of that body.

The Legislature.

4. The legislature is composed of the Governor and two bodies, one denominated the Legislative Council, the mebmers of which are nominated by the Crown, and the other styled the "General Assembly," the members of which are elected by such of the male inhabitants of the colony as are duly qualified by law.

The Legislative Council.

5. The Legislative Council consists of such public officers and such other persons as are named or designated by the Crown, by Royal Instruction, or warrant under the sign manual, with the advice of Her Majesty's Privy Council. The members hold their places during Her Majesty's pleasure. They must not be less than ten nor more than fifteen in number; and power is delegated to the Governor to appoint them provisionally, subject to Her Majesty's pleasure.

The House of Assembly.—Qualification of Members.—Qualification of Electors.

6. The General Assembly, or as it is commonly designated the "House of Assembly," was enlarged, in anticipation of the establishment of Responsible Government, and now consists of thirty members. The qualification of a member is fixed at a net annual income arising from any source whatever of 100*l.*, or the possession of property clear of all incumbrances exceeding 500*l.* in value, with residence within any electoral district of the island for a period of two years next immediately preceding the day of election. The qualification of an elector is the occupation of a dwelling-house as owner or tenant thereof for one year next immediately preceding the day of election, such dwelling being situated within the district for which the election is held, together with residence within any electoral district in the island for two years next preceding the election. Every member and elector must, moreover, be of the full age of twenty-one years and upwards, of sound understanding, a natural-born subject of Her Majesty, or have been lawfully naturalized, and never have been legally convicted of an infamous crime.

Electoral Districts.

7. For the purposes of legislative representation, ten districts have been established, all bounded by the southern coast of the island, or by the eastern coast so far north as Cape St. John.

8. This arrangement does not include that portion of the shore of Newfoundland whereon the French exercise by treaty a right of fishery, nor the coast of Labrador, which coast, from Blanc Sablon at the southern entrance of the Straits of Bellisle to the mouth of Hudson's Straits, is under the jurisdiction of the government of Newfoundland.

Number of Electors.

9. At the election in May 1855, immediately antecedent to the practical initiation of Responsible Government, 15,023 electors were found to have registered their names; but as the representation of four districts only was contested, not more than 2,338 electors recorded their votes on the occasion.

Legislative Council.—Objects to be held in view in the Construction of the Legislative Council.

10. In the operation of a legislature constituted in the manner described, the real point of difficulty is found in the composition of the Legislative Council, since, if a majority of that body be opposed to the majority of the Assembly, and enforce their opposition, they can effectually obstruct the whole course of legislation, and may produce a state of political confusion to which even the evils of an absolute government would probably be preferable. The opinions and wishes of the inhabitants of all classes must, however, be presumed to be fairly exhibited by their elected representatives, especially in a country where

NEW-FOUNDLAND.

the franchise is almost universal; and as it is undoubtedly the principle of "Responsible Government" that the administration of affairs shall be conducted in accordance with those opinions and wishes, it would seem that the first great object in the construction of the Legislative Council should be, while taking care that the leading interests of the community are adequately represented, to secure a general harmony of political views between that body and the Assembly, imparting to it at the same time that weight and influence in the exercise of its valuable power of checking hasty or unwise legislation which is derived from the possession of a respectable station and character, of wealth or a large stake in the community, or of superior mental qualifications, by its constituent members.

11. To discover and combine these elements in such a manner as to produce a result which should satisfy all parties in a mixed community would require, under any circumstances, a large field of selection. In Newfoundland that field was limited by the manifestation during the preliminary contest of political and religious party feeling, to a degree which forbad hopes of compromise or moderate bearing on the part of some who were otherwise in every respect eligible as members of the council.

12. Considerations both political and financial, to which it is not necessary here to advert in detail, seemed to render it expedient for the Governor to form an Executive Council possessing the confidence of the majority of the Assembly before he was in possession of the legal authority for constituting a Legislative Council separate from the Executive Council, those bodies having been previously to the receipt of that authority identical in composition.

Principles observed in the Composition of the Legislative Council in 1855.

13. This authority, when received, was therefore necessarily exercised in regard to the "personnel" of the Legislative Council, with the advice of the Executive Council, the latter body agreeing to the following principles proposed to them by the Governor as the basis upon which the selection of the members of the Legislative Council should proceed:

1st, That the council should not in the first instance exceed twelve or thirteen;

2d, That a clear working majority of that number should be undisputed supporters of the existing colonial administration; and,

3d, That the remainder should be gentlemen of respectable character and influential position, who were understood fairly to represent the policy of the minority of the Assembly, so far at least as that policy reflected the views of important sections of the colonial community.

14. The restriction as to number in the first proposition was suggested in order that the balance might be restored, if the practical working of the proceedings of the council should not be found to realize the objects contemplated by the remaining propositions.

Details of the Constitution, and Legislative Rules.

15. More minute details of the colonial constitution, of the form, functions, and powers of the component branches of the government, and the rules by which its legislative proceedings are governed, will be found in a recent publication* by John Little, Esquire, Barrister-at-Law, and Solicitor to the House of Assembly, of which I beg leave to transmit a copy herewith.

Legislation.—Consolidation of Offices, and Reduction of Expenditure.

16. The government of the colony having been thus remodelled in the month of May 1855, the legislature immediately applied itself to its appropriate duties. The necessary laws were passed for sanctioning the expenditure on account of the public service which had been incurred during the early part of the then current year without legislative authority, in consequence of the refusal of the House of Assembly to vote the usual supplies, at a period which was regarded

* The Constitution of the Government of Newfoundland, by John Little, Esq., Barrister-at-Law.

as the crisis of the struggle for the change in the constitution of the island. Measures by which the consolidation of certain offices and boards, and a considerable reduction in the emoluments of the principal functionaries of the colony, both present and prospective, including a diminution upon the occurrence of the first vacancy of the salary of the Governor from 3,120*l.* to 2,000*l.* a year, were adopted.* The effect of these retrenchments, when ultimately realized, will be to create a saving of 3,490*l.* in the gross expenditure, lessened, however, by an increase on the other side in the shape of pensions, amounting to 1,125*l.*, to retiring office holders, and the salaries of new officers, of which that of Financial Secretary is the most important, to a clear present retrenchment of about 1,465*l.* per annum.

Reciprocity Treaty with the United States.—Abrogation of Import Duties on certain Articles.

17. A useful law for the regulation and management of the customs was also passed; but the most important measure adopted was the Act by which the provisions of the treaty between Her Majesty and the United States of America, of the 5th June 1854, whereby certain enlarged rights of fishery on the sea coasts and shores of British North America were granted to citizens of the United States, and reciprocal free trade (or importation without being subject to duty) of certain articles the growth and produce of the United States or the British Colonies, was extended to Newfoundland.

18. This measure did not pass without considerable opposition in the Assembly, arising partly from an apprehension that the amount of revenue which would be lost in consequence of it, estimated at about 22,000*l.*, could not be replaced without substituting either a duty on exports or such an increase of the import duties on articles which remained liable to duty as would injuriously affect the trade and commerce of the country, partly I think from an innate unwillingness in some quarters to draw closer the relations which connect the colony with the United States, and not a little from alarm lest freer commercial intercourse with that country might disturb, if not ultimately destroy, existing monopolies.

Increase of Import Duties on certain other Articles.

19. The measure decided on for supplying the estimated deficiency of revenue was an increase of the rates of many of the remaining duties of imports, the most important item in the new tariff being the ad valorem duty on unenumerated goods, wares, and merchandise, which was raised from five to seven and a half and ten per cent.

20. The commercial operations of the year to which this report relates do not afford sufficient data on which to form a sound judgment of the probable success of this measure of finance, since the increased rates contributed to swell the treasury receipts from the 21st July, while the abrogation of duties did not come into effect until the 14th of the following November. The experience of the present year hitherto is certainly favourable to the desired result; but I think that no safe conclusion can be drawn until the aggregate importations of the year shall have been ascertained.

Probable Effects of Reciprocity Treaty on Export Trade to United States.

21. Of the effect of the Reciprocity Treaty upon the export trade to the United States there seems less reason to doubt. The government at Washington put the measure practically into operation as soon as it became aware that the provisions of that treaty had been virtually adopted by the Government of Newfoundland, and very promising inferences have been drawn from the fact, that while the export of cod fish from the Port of St. John to the United States in the year 1853 was 21,386 quintals, and in 1854 14,362 quintals, yet it rose in 1855 to 60,257 quintals.

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* The salary of the Governor is nominally only 3,000*l.* a year, but being paid under a law which gave the benefit of a rate of 4*s.* 2*d.* sterling to the dollar, instead of 4*s.* 4*d.*, the rate at which the dollar actually passes, it is really worth the larger amount above stated.

NEW-FOUNDLAND.

22. This increase took place during the latter part of the year, after the provisions of the Reciprocity Treaty were virtually in operation in the United States; and the hope which it encourages is strengthened by the fact, that the value of the total exports from St. John's to the United States for the half-year ending the 30th June last (1856) is estimated at 37,954*l.*, as against 12,253*l.* for the corresponding half year of 1855, and for the year ending at that date is 91,209*l.*, as against 27,810*l.* for the year ending 30th June 1855. An increased price in the United States markets for both seal and cod liver oil forms, I understand, no inconsiderable element in this aggregate augmentation of the value of the exports of Newfoundland.

Revenue.—Public Debt.

23. The question of revenue was one of more than ordinary interest to the colonial ministry, who by the change of government became charged with the responsibility of advising the Governor in the conduct of public affairs, since consistency with principles formerly avowed, if not the redemption of absolute pledges, required every practicable economy in the administration of the finances, and, if possible, a diminution of taxation.

24. The reductions effected in the expenditure on account of salaries, already adverted to, afforded an earnest of the desire of the government to fulfil their promises in this regard; but in respect to the decrease of taxation, they not only had to encounter at the outset the very serious difficulty of a considerable public debt, bearing interest for the most part at five and six per cent., and repayable at various periods before the year 1876, but, moreover, when the outstanding liabilities of the government were called in, it was found that if these were to be liquidated the expenditure of the year (which had already half expired) must exceed any revenue which could be reasonably anticipated under existing laws, to such an extent as to render it necessary at once to raise an additional loan of 45,000*l.*, thus increasing the whole public debt of the colony to an aggregate of 150,000*l.*

Sources and Amount of Revenue.

25. The total revenue collected, derived from customs duties and other incidental receipts, such as light dues, rents of Crown lands, fines, licences, and fees, amounted in 1855 to 80,704*l.* When augmented by the loan above referred to and other trifling incidental receipts, it stood at a total of 126,449*l.* Reviewing the decennial period from 1846 inclusive, the highest revenue derived from customs duties was that of 1855, amounting to 73,310*l.*, the lowest, that of 1848, amounting to 53,938*l.* The highest total revenue collected from all sources was (also in 1855) 80,704*l.*; the lowest (also in 1848) 58,411*l.*

26. If the amount of receipts in aid be added, consisting for the most part of loans, either on debentures or from the savings' bank, or by the issue of treasury notes, the year 1855 still presents the highest amount, viz., 126,449*l.*, while the year 1848 was also still the lowest, viz., 59,301*l.*

Building Loans the Cause of Public Debt.

27. An examination of the financial abstracts shows clearly that the embarrassment to which I have referred originated in the loan which was raised after the destruction of the greater part of the city of St. John's by fire in 1846. This loan was resorted to for the purpose of erecting certain public buildings, and compensating parties whose interests might be injuriously affected by the prescriptions of the laws under which the rebuilding of St. John's was regulated, with a view to the improved sanatory condition of that town, to its comparative safety from conflagration, to general convenience, and also, in a certain degree, to its public adornment. The debt thus incurred was considerably augmented by subsequent loans raised for the purpose of erecting a lunatic asylum and a general penitentiary. To meet the redemption of these loans and their accruing interest from year to year no special fund was established; those charges were thrown upon the ordinary revenue; that revenue, it appears, would have proved sufficient to cover the expenditure of the colony

(including the heavy charge on account of the poor, sick, and lunatic, which, after fluctuating from 1845 to 1853 at rates the highest of which was about 13,400*l.* and the lowest about 3,000*l.*, reached in the years 1854 and 1855 an amount little short of 18,000*l.* a year), if it had not been subjected to the extraordinary burden to which I have referred, and to alleviate which no effort was made until the year 1852, when an additional ten per cent. upon the revenue collected at the port of St. John's was imposed, to reimburse in some degree the public chest for the expenditure on account of local objects under the St. John's Rebuilding Act. In the four years during which this impost has been levied it has realized only the amount of 22,062*l.*, while the amount charged on the revenue from the year 1846 inclusive for instalments of the capital repaid and interest on the loan amounts to about 108,680*l.*

Expenditure.

28. The expenditure for the year, as recorded in the Blue Book, viz., 120,926*l.*, is unduly swelled by the arrears of the year 1854, of this sum no less than 9,500*l.* being on account of the expenses of two sessions of the legislature in the year 1854, and a further amount of at least 22,500*l.* on account of the expenses of the civil government for that year.

29. The expenditure for the two years, as rendered in the Blue Book, is so blended as to make it impossible to distinguish the amount assignable to each under the several heads; and it will perhaps give a clearer idea of the position of the colony in this respect if I state the average annual expenditure for the last ten years for each branch of administration or service, together with the maximum and minimum amount during that period, which I do accordingly in the following tabular form:

Service.	Average expenditure.	Maximum during ten years, from 1848 inclusive.		Minimum during ten years, from 1848, inclusive.	
		Amount.	Year.	Amount.	Year.
	£	£		£	
Civil government	5,786	8,134	1855	4,173	1844
Collection of revenue	5,491	7,586	1847	4,274	1850
Judicial	6,250	7,723	1855	4,778	1854
Police and magistrates	5,662	11,020	1855	312	1854
Legislative	4,586	9,522	1854	3,218	1847
Ecclesiastical	567	800	1847 to 1850	300	1853 to 1855
Pensions	210	798	1855	31	1854
Poor, sick, and lunatic	11,139	17,787	1855	4,982	1850
Roads and bridges	6,184	13,184	1846	1,493	1849
Education	7,903	10,823	1854	5,128	1848
Instalments of loans repaid and treasury notes redeemed	6,352	12,343	1855	4,350	1849
Interest on loan	4,660	6,094	1853	353	1846

During these years the average total expenditure was 80,737*l.*
The maximum (1855) 120,926*l.*
The minimum (1848) 62,712*l.*

The difference between the total expenditure and the sum of the amounts given under separate heads above was expended upon public works, light-houses, gaol charges, and for other miscellaneous services varying from year to year. Wherever in the above table the maximum is in 1855 and the minimum in 1854 the extraordinary difference which appears is ascribable to the stagnation of legislative proceedings already adverted to.

30. The amount under the head "Ecclesiastical" is defrayed by the British Treasury, and is borne upon the North American clergy estimate. At the period when the maximum amount of 800*l.* was paid, it included an allowance to the Roman Catholic bishop. At the minimum of 300*l.* it is paid solely and on a reduced scale to the Lord Bishop of Newfoundland by Royal Letters Patent. The increase on the pension list is in consequence of the retiring allowances granted to the functionaries who resigned their offices upon the

NEW-FOUNDLAND.

introduction of Responsible Government. By a law specially passed for the purpose there was assigned to the—

Retiring Colonial Secretary 400*l.* a year,
„ Attorney-General 350*l.* „
„ Surveyor-General 285*l.* „
„ Solicitor-General 90*l.* „

the rates being based upon the amount of previous salary combined with length of service. The law did not, however, come into operation until an advanced period of the year, and the charge on this account was therefore proportionably less than it will be in future years.

Trade and Commerce.

31. With these observations upon the revenue and expenditure I next proceed to notice briefly the trade and commerce of the country, as being the source from which the actual receipts of the treasury are supplied, in the proportion of at least eleven twelfths of the whole.

Exports.

32. By the Blue Book return of exports their total value for the year is estimated at 1,142,212*l.*, but by a statement which has been recently compiled, and includes more accurate information from the outports, the total value is placed at 1,280,468*l.*, to which must be added, at the lowest computation, 250,000*l.* on account of that portion of the Labrador trade which is not recorded in the Custom House books, making a total in round numbers of 1,630,468*l.*

33. The discrepancy between the returns referred to, and the want of details in respect to the exports from the Labrador, prevent me from stating the value of exports under their several heads as correctly as I could desire. Of the total amount stated, however, not more than about 70,000*l.* consists of re-exported articles. The remainder is the bonâ fide produce of the seas, with the exception of wood manufactures, such as hoops, shooks, spars, &c., to the extent of about 3,000*l.*, and furs, of which, as respects the Labrador, we have no account, but which, judging from information obtained during my recent visit to that coast, I am inclined to estimate at about 10,000*l.*

A. Enclosure 1.
B. Enclosure 2.

34. I beg leave to append to this report two statements, A. and B., which will show the distribution of the trade, together with the number of men and amount of tonnage to which it gives employment.

Imports.

35. The total value of the imports is placed at 1,152,804*l.* (exclusive of the Labrador), which, taking a retrospect so far as the year 1840, is considerably in excess of any previous year, the years 1853 and 1854 approaching more nearly to it than any others. The increased value is no doubt a consequence of the enhanced prices occasioned by the late war. This is strikingly proved by the single article of flour, 125,008 barrels of which in 1852 were valued at 125,048*l.*, while in 1855, 119,725 barrels are valued at 263,067*l.*

36. The principal articles of imports for consumption in 1855 were in quantity and value as follows:

	Quantity.	Value.
		£
Bread	117,025 cwts.	144,737
Butter	14,862 „	51,838
Coals	21,525 tons	22,402
Cordage	449 „	23,296
Corn meal	22,522 barrels	21,194
Flour	119,725 „	263,067
Cotton manufactures	—	49,912
Fishing tackle	—	23,364
Hardware and cutlery	—	17,104
Iron and ironmongery	—	11,783

	Quantity.	Value.
		£
Leathern ware	—	49,204
Linen manufacture	—	18,702
Molasses	733,044 gallons	39,808
Oxen and cows	2,670	15,285
Pork, salted	21,865 barrels	70,212
Salt	37,794 tons	25,384
Tea	283,538 cwts.	13,609
Wine	28,624 gallons	13,354
Woollens and slops	—	88,134

37. In like manner as with the export trade, I beg to refer to the annexed returns marked C. and D. as affording information in regard to the relative value of the import trade from Great Britain, the colonies and foreign countries respectively, as well as the tonnage and number of men employed.

C. Enclosure 3.

D. Enclosure 4.

Population.

38. The pursuits and habits of the population are pretty clearly indicated by the nature and value of the imports as above given.

Produce raised and consumed in the Colony.

39. The value of produce raised and consumed in the island and on the Labrador has been roughly estimated as follows:

	£
Agricultural produce	252,922
Game; viz.	
Venison, partridge and wild fowl	10,000
Fuel	75,000
Timber and boards	75,000
Fish, fresh, of all kinds	43,000
Oil	10,600
	466,522
which, added to the value of imports for consumption, viz.	1,152,804

produces a total of 1,619,326*l.* as the consumption of 120,000 people (being the number at which the population is now estimated), in the proportion of about five males to four females, and showing an average annual rate of between 13*l.* and 14*l.* each.

Agriculture.

40. I do not know that I can better describe the present position of the agriculture of the country, and the efforts which are making to improve it, than by referring to the accompanying report of the Newfoundland Agricultural Society for the year 1855 (E.), and the list of prizes (F.) which the society propose for competition during the present year. Vast progress has undoubtedly been made since the first efforts to encourage the cultivation of the soil in the government of Sir Thomas Cochrane were set on foot. In many parts of the colony, under a system of high manuring, for which the refuse of the fish and an abundance of bog earth afford materials, remunerative crops, especially of the grasses, are obtained; but it seems impossible to anticipate a time when the agriculture of Newfoundland can be otherwise than subordinate to its fisheries, and that period will certainly not arrive until Prince Edward's Island and the neighbouring continental provinces present no further field for the employment of immigrant farmers. The comfort and independence of the inhabitants have, however, been greatly promoted by the attention already bestowed upon the productions of the field and of the garden, and by a continuance in the same course I have no reason to doubt that even more favourable results may be achieved, notwithstanding the obstacles which the uncertainty attending the advent of spring and the short duration of summer present.

E. Enclosure 5.

F. Enclosure 6.

NEW-FOUNDLAND.

41. In my predecessor's, Sir Gaspard Le Marchant's, report with the Blue Book for 1847, a concise and interesting history of the agriculture and horticulture of the colony up to that period has been given. During that gentleman's administration many improvements were suggested, and superior breeds of horned stock, sheep, and poultry were introduced into the colony. All classes indeed agree in attributing a very large share of the beneficial effects which are now experienced to the assiduity and energy which his Excellency personally brought to bear upon this most important branch of social progress.

Agricultural Statistics.

42. I conclude my observations under this head by stating that the details given in the Blue Book, in the return of produce, stock, &c., are of no value, except as indicating a minimum production for the period of eleven years since 1845, upon the census returns for which year they are based. No attempt has since that period been made to collect information of this description with accuracy. I recently endeavoured to induce the Agricultural Society to take the matter in hand; but, after giving consideration to my proposal, they came to the conclusion that nothing effectual could be done without legislative aid. I hope the government will take some steps for this purpose in the next session of the legislature, in connexion with arrangements for a new census.

Manufactures.

43. A manufactory of seal oil, upon the principle of converting the fat into oil by tearing it into small particles, for which purpose suitable machinery is applied, and immediately subjecting it to the action of heat, instead of leaving it to the slower process of gradual corruption and decomposition, as usually practised, was set on foot in 1855, and has been put into operation upon a more enlarged scale and more complete plan in the present year. I understand that from the greater promptitude with which the oil thus made becomes a marketable article, and the price which in consequence of its superior clearness is given for it in the United States, there is every ground for believing that this manufacture is likely to return a very fair if not a considerable profit upon the capital embarked in it.

Catching and Preparation of Fish and their Products.

44. The catching and preparation in various ways of the several kinds of fish and their products, viz.,

Cod, dry,	Salmon,
,, pickled,	Trout,
,, sounds,	Hallibut,
,, liver oil,	Eels,
,, core,	Lobsters,
Capelin,	Seal oil,
Herrings,	,, skins,
Mackerel,	Blubber and dregs,

constitute, as is well known, the principal occupation of the inhabitants of the colony, and I am not aware that in respect to any of the processes connected with this pursuit in its numerous branches any alterations or improvements, except that to which I have just adverted, fall to be noticed in the year 1855. Much information, however, as to the mode of preparing and putting up pickled herrings, so as to adapt them for sale according to the markets to which they are sent, was obtained from several different sources, and has been extensively circulated throughout the colony.

Crime.

45. From questions connected with the material I pass to those which have reference to the moral condition of the people. In so far as this condition is indicated by the details under the head of "Gaols and Prisons," I have great pleasure in referring to the Blue Book return. It will be seen that the greatest number of prisoners in confinement at any one time during the year was

thirty-four, and the total number confined during the year only fifty-seven. Crime of a serious nature is in fact of very rare occurrence; even the offences which come under the cognizance of the magistrates are few in number, and rarely of an aggravated character; they are generally, especially in the town of St. John's, the result of drunkenness, a vice which too commonly prevails in sea-faring communities, to which reproach, I regret to say, the city of St. John's forms no exception.

Courts of Justice.

46. Disputes, which in their results might lead to litigation, are in the out settlements frequently compounded and arranged by the influence of the ministers of religion; and the magistrates and I have lately visited more than one gaol in those settlements the cells of which had not been tenanted even in a single instance for the last fifteen years. The places of temporary confinement to which I refer are not enumerated in the return. They are generally under the same roof with the district court-houses, and are not regarded as regular gaols or houses of correction. For a concise account of the existing tribunals for the administration of civil and criminal justice, their jurisdiction and powers, I beg leave to refer to the annexed minute with which Chief Justice Brady has been kind enough to furnish me (G.)

G.
Enclosure 7.

Religious and Moral Instruction.

47. The necessary connexion between the state of crime and the means of religious and moral instruction naturally leads to the notice, in the next place, of the character of those means, and the extent to which they are applied.

Ministers of Religion and Places of Worship.

48. To the maintenance either of ministers of religion or of places of worship the public resources of the colony do not in the slightest degree contribute.

The British Treasury provides 300*l.* a year in aid of the annual salary of the Lord Bishop of Newfoundland, who is of the communion of the United Church of England and Ireland, and exercises his sacred office, quoad its temporal functions, under Royal Letters Patent. The remainder (500*l.*) of the very moderate provision which is assigned to this Episcopate, with the exception of a trifling travelling allowance from British funds, granted in consequence of the Island of Bermuda being included in the diocese (and in respect of which addition to his charge the Bishop also receives 400*l.* a year), is provided by the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel, a society it is merely superfluous to observe here to which the inhabitants of the British Colonies and the cause of Protestant Christianity throughout the world have been long and largely indebted. In this colony, all the clergy of the Church of England, save three, are missionaries of the society, which contributes a considerable amount to their support. With the exceptions just mentioned, the ministers of religion in Newfoundland are maintained by the subscriptions of the members of the several denominations to which they belong, and by the offerings, either in money or kind, of their more immediate flocks.

49. With respect to many of them, it is not too much to assert that the collective resources of the minister scarcely afford the means of obtaining bare subsistence and clothing,—a state of dependence, and consequent anxiety, always to be lamented, and which is painfully aggravated in many instances by local circumstances, and the obligation of providing for a family.

50. Of the ministers of the Protestant Episcopal Church, there were in the year 1855 forty in the active discharge of their duties in Newfoundland and on the coast of Labrador, where two of those missionaries are and have been for the last three years permanently stationed. This number shows an increase of one third over the numerical strength of the ministry in 1846, when thirty only appear upon the returns. The increase in churches is still greater, the number being sixty-six in 1855 as against forty-nine in 1846. If the Blue Book returns for these years are compared, it would seem indeed that this augmentation of ministers and churches had been attended, not only by no increase, but by an absolute decrease, first, of the number which the churches

NEW-FOUNDLAND.

could contain, and, secondly, of those who habitually attend Divine Worship. The palpable error of the first of these results justifies the belief that the second is equally fallacious; and I am happy to have it in my power to state, upon the best authority, that the attendance upon the public services of the Church of England bears at least a fair proportion to the increase of the means provided for that object. The explanation required is found in the fact that the returns for the year 1855 have not been obtained from authentic sources, and the details which they give, at all times to a great extent conjectural, are in this instance both incorrect and defective.

51. The Roman Catholic churches have increased to forty-nine in 1855 from thirty-four in 1846. The Blue Book returns do not state the number of ministers in either year, nor give details of the congregations or attendance in the year 1846. For the year 1855 it is stated, on the authority of the Roman Catholic Bishop, the Right Reverend Dr. Mullock, that the places of worship will contain about 30,000, of which the magnificent cathedral in St. John's accommodates 8,000, and that the adult population generally are punctual in their attendance at the chapels in their respective districts.

52. The Protestant Episcopal and Roman Catholic population of the colony are computed respectively, the first at about 42,000, and the latter at about 56,000. The Wesleyan Methodist communion claim about 18,000 as the number of attendants at their places of public worship, and there are thirty-seven chapels, forty "preaching places," and thirteen missionaries and assistant missionaries maintained by the society in Newfoundland. Besides these, there is a chapel for the followers of the Church of Scotland, one for the members of the Free Presbyterian Church, and also a Congregational Church, all three situated in the city of St. John's, and duly provided with competent and (as I have every reason to believe) exemplary ministers.

Education.

53. Public education is largely assisted from the colonial revenue. The amount expended in 1855 was 8,871*l.*, being about a ninth part of the whole revenue collected, and the following has been the expenditure on this account in ten successive years, terminating with the year referred to, viz.:

	£
1846	6,628
1847	6,067
1848	5,128
1849	6,015
1850	8,580
1851	7,748
1852	9,530
1853	9,645
1854	10,823
1855	8,871

54. These amounts include, not only the annual appropriations, but also a fixed sum of 600*l.* a year specially assigned under a permanent Act to the masters of three different branches, namely, the Roman Catholic, the Church of England, and the "General Protestant" of the St. John's Academy, an institution founded in the year 1844 "for the instruction of youth in the "several branches of scientific and classical learning;" an object which, under existing arrangements, is, I understand, satisfactorily carried out.

Division of Sum annually appropriated to Education.—Colonial Church and School Society.—Educational Statistics.

55. The sum annually appropriated is divided into nearly equal proportions for the education of Protestant and Roman Catholic children, after making some trifling provision for eight commercial schools at the outports, wherein navigation and the elements of nautical knowledge are expected to be taught. The appropriation and expenditure of the sums apportioned to the several districts of the colony are committed by law to boards appointed by the

Governor, under certain limitations as to the number, religious creed, and clerical functions of their component members. It is required that the Roman Catholic Board be composed exclusively of Roman Catholics, while the Protestant Boards must unite all denominations of Protestants in the district, and the majority of each Board be of the same persuasion as the majority of the inhabitants of such district. My observation and experience of the working of the Protestant Boards have led me to the conclusion that the principle on which they are based is not favourable generally to the cause of education, while it is productive in many instances of social discord in the small communities of the outports, where the elements for the proper composition of such institutions are not always to be found. Out of the proportion of the educational grant assigned to Protestant children, 500*l.* sterling is paid in aid of the operations of the "Colonial Church and School Society," an association in which the "Newfoundland School Society" became merged a few years ago. These societies have conferred very great advantages upon the youth of Newfoundland. The expenditure of the Colonial Church and School Society, exclusive of the 500*l.* from the public revenue, amounted in the year 1855, to about 1,450*l.* sterling, derived principally from the society's funds, but including also voluntary contributions in the colony, and a small amount under the head of "Fees." The following is an abstract of the educational statistics given in the Blue Book returns:

	Number of schools.	Number of scholars.			Remarks.
		Male.	Female.	Total.	
Colonial Church and School Society	29	1,341	1,213	2,554	*The Total includes 139 attending one school, of which the sexes are not distinguished.
Protestant Board Schools	72	1,523	1,318	2,985*	
Roman Catholic Board Schools	79	2,659	2,552	5,211	
Wesleyan Society Schools	16	493	337	882	
Commercial Schools	8	—	—	217	The masterships of two of these schools vacant.
St. John's Academy, 3 branches	3	—	—	89	
Grammar Schools	2	—	—	83	
Presbyterian Normal School	1	—	—	60	
Free School	1	—	—	73	
Presentation Convent Schools (Roman Catholics)	5	—	1,375	1,375	
Orphan Asylum, St. John's (Roman Catholic)	2	—	—	73	
	218	6,021	6,795	13,602	

Private Schools.—General Attendance at School.

56. Besides the above there are a few private schools situated in St. John's and the other districts of the island, at which probably some three or four hundred children of the upper and middling classes are instructed. The above figures may be taken to include every child to whom scholastic instruction in any degree, however inferior, or to any extent, however limited, is imparted. There is I think, upon the whole, a commendable desire upon the part of the operative classes that their children should receive some sort of education; but the demands of the fishing season, upon which the mass of the population depend for support, and during which all but the younger children are consequently employed at the fishery, together with the scattered condition of the inhabitants, many of whom dwell in remote and comparatively inaccessible places, materially diminish the advantages which even the existing means might otherwise afford.

Quality of Education.

57. No system of school inspection is at present in force; but my own observation (limited, I freely admit), coupled with the information I have derived from many persons competent to judge, leaves no doubt on my mind that the quality of the so-called education which the majority of the juvenile population generally receive is of an ordinary and very defective description.

NEW-FOUNDLAND.

The frequency with which salaries from 30*l.* down to 10*l.*, including all emoluments, appear upon the rolls, is of itself almost a sufficient proof of the correctness of this opinion.

58. I fear, nevertheless, there would be difficulty in inducing the legislature to revise the plan upon which aid is now given to schools. Through the good offices of the Governor-General of Canada, I have obtained a complete set of reports and other documents relating to education in the provinces under his government, exhibiting the details of the system, the excellent results of which are so strongly depicted in the Earl of Elgin's Blue Book Report for the year 1853. I trust that the valuable information which those documents contain may be turned to future account in the interest of the rising generation of Newfoundland.

Pauperism.

59. A review, however cursory, of the circumstances affecting the physical and moral condition of the people, would be very imperfect if it omitted reference to the extent to which eleemosynary relief to the able-bodied has of late years been habitually granted from the public funds.

60. Previously to my assumption of the administration, my attention had been directed to this unusual and startling feature of a colonial system, and on the first occasion of meeting the legislature I brought the subject under their notice, in the following passages of the speech which I then addressed to them, viz.: "I learn with deep regret that that important branch of our commercial "industry, the seal fishery, has this year failed to produce even an average "return, and that the condition of a very considerable proportion of our "population is such as to render it impossible to avoid extending to them "a large amount of eleemosynary as well as other aid, at the charge of the "public revenue. The rapid growth and present extent of pauperism consti-"tute indeed an evil of appalling magnitude. An unnatural element in any "colonial community, and lying as a canker at the very root of political "and social prosperity,—your early and earnest attention will, I am confi-"dent, be given to an examination of the causes by which it has been "produced or fostered, and to the application of such remedies as may be "within your reach.

"Many new channels of employment will probably result from a freer "commercial intercourse with the United States; and the development of "those resources, which, although hitherto comparatively neglected, there "seems no doubt that this colony itself possesses, would, I sanguinely anticipate, "open a wide field into which, by judicious legislation, the industry of our "hardy and adventurous people might be successfully directed, not only "without disturbance of, but possibly with much advantage to, those settled "pursuits to which British capital and enterprise have so long been profitably "devoted."

Recommendation of the Assembly in respect to Pauperism.

61. By the address in reply the Assembly pledged themselves that "Atten-"tion should be given to an examination of the causes by which the prevailing "pauperism has been produced, and to the adoption of such remedies as may "be deemed practical and effectual." In pursuance of this pledge a committee was appointed, who took evidence upon the subject, and reported that "very experienced persons" all agreed that the pauperised state of the operative population was attributable to causes entirely independent of legislative control, and recommended that in cases wherein eleemosynary aid is considered necessary, the recipient should be relieved in money instead of food, and that labour of some kind or other should in all practicable cases be strictly exacted in return for gratuitous relief.

Causes of Pauperism.

62. Between twenty and thirty persons resident in different parts of the island, who, from their avocations, were likely to be well informed upon the subject, all agreed in considering the proximate causes of distress to be a short

catch and low price of fish; the potato disease, occasioning deficient crops; the high price of imported provisions, which was greatly augmented by the war; the want of employment in winter months; the absence in some out-districts of fixed mercantile establishments, from which clothing and provisions could be obtained; and, in many instances, the curtailment in extent of the credit system by large mercantile houses in St. John's and elsewhere. One or two witnesses only ventured upon the opinion that the want of provident habits in the people contributed in some degree to their suffering condition at periods when they had not the current means of support.

63. The evidence of the Colonial Secretary, the Honourable John Kent, a gentleman who possesses considerable experience in the colony, in which he has for some years past occupied commercial, political, and official positions, is the only evidence which seems to me to take a large view of the question, and to point clearly to the root of the evil. I therefore give his opinion in this place in his own words as follows, viz.:

"The general cause of the pauperism of this country is, that the operative "population attempt to live for twelve months on the labour of three or four "months.

"I believe the prevailing severe pauperism is only the crisis of a long state "of disease. In order to illustrate my position, it is necessary to try back for "some years, and inquire into the state of the law that regulated the dealings "between merchant and planter, master and servant, commonly called the law "of Current Supply. To any one investigating the social results of that law, "which I have not now time to do, it will be apparent that its effect was to "direct the attention of the people solely and entirely to the prosecution of the "fisheries; it gave the operative population of the country great contentment "and security; the merchant supplied them for the fishery season, took into "his warehouses the proceeds of the voyage, paid the servants' wages, and "advanced them supplies for the coming winter; in fact, the result was to keep "the people in a state of minority or tutelage. The closest approximation to "the state of things I wish to describe is the present state of the inhabitants "of Fortune Bay. There, though the law of Current Supply does not exist, "the merchant carries it out in spirit and effect, and, in consequence, pauperism "is unknown; but in my opinion the cost of that absence of pauperism, owing "to the system I have just described, is a population incapable of expansion, "a neglect of every other employment save the system of the fishery, and bye-"and-bye, when the system ceases to operate, the subjecting the present "population to the same trials and hardships which the other parts of the "island suffered on the change of the system here, and also the same incapacity "on the part of the population of Fortune Bay to resist its disastrous results. "When the system of current supply had fallen into desuetude, either by the "judgments of the courts or by the expiry of the Statute Law, it placed in "the hands of the capitalist the power which labour is entirely incapable of "resisting. In fact, owing to the effects of former laws upon the social position "of our operative population, there is no fair field between capital and labour, "and in the unequal contest pauperism gradually set in, and a crisis was "principally brought on by the fire and gale of 1846, and the potato disease "of 1847.

"The principal remedy is a complete revolution in the moral feelings which "govern the proceedings of merchant and planter, which can be only brought "about by a reciprocal free agency between both parties in their contracts. "A determination to effect this can be achieved by the inhabitants themselves; "legislation can only come in as an auxiliary; but legislation may be made "useful by encouraging existing sources of employment, and by creating new "ones."

64. It might have been added, that the inhabitants of Fortune Bay are enabled, from their more favourable situation on the south coast of the island, to pursue the fisheries throughout the year, and are in this respect in direct contrast to those who are compelled "to attempt to live for twelve months on "the labour of three or four months." The same advantage is possessed by the fishing population along the whole south coast to the westward of Fortune Bay, and "pauperism" is unknown there; but with respect to the other districts, I have no doubt that helplessness, or, in other words, the absence of

NEW-FOUNDLAND.

the knowledge how to provide economically for their wants, engendered by the system to which Mr. Kent's evidence refers, together with the habit of using provisions and clothing much better in quality and therefore higher in price than is customary with the working population even of the mother country, has a large share in producing the destitution which at seasons is so severely felt amongst the labouring classes of the colony. Distress, first heavily experienced under the combined visitations of the calamitous fire of 1846, the potato disease, and short fisheries, absolutely called for relief in many instances. Gratuitous relief once imparted, produced its inevitable consequence,—a desire again to participate in so easy a mode of mitigating the pressure of want. By degrees, and those rapid degrees, "use begat the habit," until relief to the able-bodied, either gratuitously, or by giving them work little better than nominal in value and importance, has at last become so recognized a feature of the administrative system that in the last session of the legislature leading and intelligent members of the Assembly were found contending for an apportionment of the public revenue for poor relief, simply in proportion to the numerical population of districts.

65. If employment during the winter season in trades (as is the case with the population of the western coast of the Bay of Fundy and the shores of the state of Maine) or otherwise could be found for the fishermen of Newfoundland, the remedy the most effectual, and on every account the most desirable, would be supplied; but I do not see how the government of a free country can bring about the application of capital necessary to this end; or that more can be done by the executive than to reduce the public expenditure on account of pauperism to the minimum point, by adopting in every practicable case the principle of giving none other relief than that which is accepted within the doors of a "workhouse."

66. Of the amount expended under the head of sick, poor, and lunatic, in 1855, the following are the details, as shown by a return furnished to me:

	£
Expended in gratuitous relief of the poor - - -	14,455
Number so relieved (but the return is imperfect), 6,400, or 1,280 families.	
Expended in employment of paupers in roads, streets, &c. -	662
Number so relieved, 434.	
Lunatic Asylum - - - - - -	1,797
St. John's Hospital - - - - - -	53
Seed potatoes - - - - - -	820
Total - -	17,789

Civil Establishment.

67. I have now to notice the fixed civil establishment, which at the close of the year 1855 consisted of the following officers, viz.:

Civil Departments.

The Governor.
  Private Secretary.
The Colonial Secretary.
  2 Clerks.
The Receiver General (combining the duties of Treasurer and Collector of Customs).
  1 Assistant Collector.
  1 Treasurer's Clerk.
  1 Landing and Tide Surveyor.
  2 Landing Waiters.
  3 Clerks.
  14 Sub-collectors.
  6 Preventive Officers.
The Financial Secretary.

The Surveyor-General (and Chairman of Board of Works).
1 Chainman.
1 Clerk of the Board of Works.
1 Superintendent of Public Buildings.
5 Medical officers (physician of Lunatic Asylum, gaol, and district surgeons).
The Postmaster-General.
2 Clerks.
15 Deputy Postmasters.
6 Way Masters.
6 District Registrars.

Judicial Department.

The Chief Justice.
2 Assistant Judges.
The Attorney-General.
The Solicitor-General.
3 Registrars of Courts.
3 Sheriffs.
1 Crier and Tipstaff.
1 Judge of the Vice-Admiralty Court.
1 Registrar of the Admiralty Court.
1 Marshal.
19 Stipendiary Magistrates.
1 Police Inspector.
60 (about) Constables.
8 Gaolers.
11 Clerks of the Peace.
12 Coroners.

Legislature.

Legislative Council:
Clerk.
Master in Chancery.
Usher of Black Rod.
House of Assembly:
Speaker.
Two Clerks.
Serjeant-at-Arms.
Solicitor.
Librarian.
Besides two house and office keepers and nine messengers and door keepers.

68. Of the above-mentioned offices, those of Financial Secretary, Assistant Collector, and Clerk of the Board of Works were created in the course of the year, and existed only during the latter part of it.

69. The office of Judge of the Vice-Admiralty Court is held by the Chief Justice, and the registrarship and marshalship of that Court are also held in conjunction with other offices, the Chief Clerk of the Colonial Secretary's office being the marshal and also clerk of the Legislative Council. The sub-collectors of customs and preventive officers are in a few instances also either clerks of the peace, deputy postmasters, district registrars, or coroners, and sometimes more than two of these offices are combined in one person. The same remark applies to the stipendiary magistrates and clerks of the peace; but the emoluments attached to these situations are in general very trifling, and even when all united scarcely afford the means of decent maintenance, independently of private resources.

70. The staff of both the Colonial Secretary and the Financial Secretary require, even under present circumstances, the augmentation of one clerk each; and if this were effected I think that the civil establishment generally would be found sufficient for a still larger community and an increased amount of public business. On the other hand I am of opinion that as vacancies occur two of the stipendiary magistrates in St. John's and several others at the out-

NEW-FOUNDLAND.

ports may be discontinued without any injurious consequences to the public interests.

71. An ambulatory system of administering justice in cases both of greater and minor importance would, I conceive, be the best suited to the circumstances of this colony and its dependency of the Labrador. The possession by the colonial government of a small screw-steamer would render such a system perfectly feasible, and confer at the same time the means of preventing evasions of revenue laws and protecting the fisheries against foreign encroachments.

Public Works.

72. No public works were undertaken at the expense of the colony during the year 1855. The sum appropriated to the construction of roads and bridges was far from adequate to the purpose, or to the just demands of the inhabitants of the bays and out-settlements. The crippled state of the pecuniary resources of the colony, and not the policy of the government, occasioned this shortcoming in financial legislation; and I am happy to state that a more liberal amount has been appropriated for the service of the present year.

Lighthouse on Cape Race.

73. The erection of a lighthouse on Cape Race, at the expense of the Imperial Government, the cost of building and future maintenance to be reimbursed by tolls from the shipping benefiting by the light, was so far commenced as that the frame work, the principal part of the materials, and the superintendent engineer, arrived in the colony. The season was too far advanced for effective exertion, and the present year will probably approach its close before the work will be completed.

Electric Telegraph between Europe and America.

74. The interesting operations of the New York, Newfoundland, and London Telegraph Company, which have for their ultimate object the connexion of Europe with America by electric telegraph, were pushed with vigour, but experienced a severe check by the ill success which attended the first attempt to submerge the electric cable between Cape Breton and the south coast of Newfoundland. A severe gale of wind arose, accompanied by a heavy sea; the cable broke, and a large portion of it was regarded as lost, but has since been partially recovered. Although the fact properly belongs to the records of the year 1856, I may mention here, that that portion of the work has lately been successfully accomplished; and that there is also every reason to expect that the communication by land wires between the port of St. John's and the cable terminus at Cape Bay across Newfoundland, will be completed before the ensuing winter sets in.

75. It may, I believe, be truly added, that the ocean cable destined to connect Ireland with Newfoundland is in course of manufacture; and an officer commanding a vessel of the United States navy is now engaged in taking accurate soundings of the Atlantic, for the more sure completion of the enterprise.

Government House.

76. In compliance with the instruction, that detailed information should be afforded with respect to the official residence of the Governor, I beg to transmit herewith—

1st. A lithographic drawing exhibiting a view of Government House:
2d. A plan of the house:
3d. A plan of the grounds:
4th. A list of the furniture.

Enclosure 8.

The building is solid, capacious, and completely furnished, and the arrangement of the interior very convenient. Its situation, in proximity to the town and public offices, yet to all intents and purposes in the country, is delightful in summer, but bleak and exposed in winter. During at least half the year it is necessary to keep up from twenty-six to thirty fires, some of them on a large

scale; and the allowance of 200*l.*, which has been of late years granted annually to the Governor in aid of fuel and light, is scarcely sufficient to provide the first of those items alone. I am afraid that the house will be found altogether on too large a scale, when the salary of the Governor shall become reduced, as contemplated by law, to 2,000*l.* a year.

77. I may here conclude the observations which the special returns comprised in the Blue Book, or the leading features of the political and economical condition of the colony, have appeared to me to require in order to make that condition understood.

Retrospective View of the Condition of the Colony.

78. A retrospect of the last ten years is no doubt interesting, but will be found, I fear, in most respects unsatisfactory. The product of the industry of the country does not seem to have increased with the increase of population. Of the amount of that product the export of dried cod forms, I conceive, the fairest possible criterion. By the following statement, viz.:

Exports of Dried Cod.

	Quintals.
1845	1,000,233
1846	879,015
1847	837,973
1848	920,366
1849	1,175,167
1850	1,089,182
1851	1,017,152
1852	972,921
1853	922,718
1854	774,117
1855	1,107,388

It will be seen that the average export for the first five years of the decennial period concluding with 1855 was 980,341 quintals, and for the second five years 956,859 quintals.

The years 1849 and 1855 present the highest, and the years 1847 and 1854 the lowest in the series. That the natural supply varies from year to year there can be little doubt, but it seems clear that it has by no means regularly declined. This fluctuation is attributed by the experienced and observing to various causes; but I apprehend that those causes are all beyond the control or remedy of man. The catch of the year 1855 not only presents no increase of importance over those of 1850, 1851, and 1852, but is very little larger than the catch of 1845. No one, however, I believe, questions the fact that since that year the population has increased from fifteen to twenty per cent.

78. But while the productive industry of the people appears to have been thus stationary, the public debt has certainly augmented, the revenue raised by duties on consumption has been increased, the number soliciting and obtaining relief as paupers is considerably greater, and the amount appropriated to public works and means of communication considerably less. A redeeming feature of the survey is found in the fact, that the means of promoting public religion, viz., the increase of churches and ministers, which depend in so important a degree upon the voluntary contributions of the people, have been materially extended.

79. I acquit the population of the imputation of indolence or inactivity as the cause of the non-increase of the staple export during the period adverted to, for I am strongly of opinion that the shores of Newfoundland which are in the occupation of British fishermen (and it must be remembered that the fisheries of Newfoundland now are and have been for many years past exclusively a shore fishery) are upon the whole what may be termed fully fished, by which I would be understood as meaning that in some places more fish could not be taken from the water, and that in others, with reference to the extent of shore suitable for the process of drying and curing fish, and the establishments of the fishermen, (which may be considered for the most part

NEW-FOUNDLAND.

as limited to the heads of bays and coves,) the population was even in the year 1845 sufficiently numerous.

80. I am aware that this view is disputed, and there are no doubt portions of the coast to which it is inapplicable; but, on the other hand, there are settlements where the return of fish does not bear an average proportion to the number of the population; and my opinion is mainly formed upon personal observation during tours of inspection which I was enabled very recently to make in Her Majesty's ships "Argus" and "Pylades," in the course of which I visited four harbours on the coast of the Labrador, three upon that part of the coast of Newfoundland which is in occupation during the fishing season by the French, and eleven of our own settlements upon the eastern and southern coasts of the island.

French Shore.

81. I may add in this place, that I believe the shore enjoyed by the French is also fully occupied. If indeed it were susceptible of producing a greater export, the encouragement which their national policy offers, and which constantly impels their fishermen to trespass upon the fishing grounds reserved to the British, would long since have brought about that result.

Seal Fishery.

82. Several persons whose opinions deserve respect conceive that the fleet despatched to the seal fishery is also too extensive for the return which can fairly be expected from the ice fields within such a distance of our shores as renders the colonial ports convenient for its outfit. This opinion is founded, I think, upon the results of the two last years' voyages, and scarcely seems to be justified by a reference to the records of a more extended period. The export of seal oil for ten successive years to 1855 inclusive has been as follows:

	Tons.
1846	3,065
1847	4,607
1848	6,507
1849	4,190
1850	6,235
1851	6,968
1852	7,333
1853	8,137
1854	5,667
1855	3,760

The average of which for the last five years, viz., 6,353 tons, far exceeds that of the first five years, viz., 4,921 tons.

83. The prosecution of this branch of the fisheries is in some degree hazardous and very exciting, and when the voyage is successful the gains to the merchant, the captain, and the crew are considerable; but the losses are also heavy. It places large sums of ready money in the hands of seafaring men of the operative class, who characteristically squander it, and, being a pursuit which partakes more of the nature of speculation or gambling than of steady industry, does not, I think, tend to ameliorate the physical condition or promote the happiness of the people at large.

General concluding Remarks.

84. The foregoing remarks relate, as will be perceived, to the past and present position of the colony at the close of the year 1855. Causes already explained have prevented me from submitting those remarks until the year 1856 is considerably advanced. Since the date referred to another session of the legislature has taken place, and several laws tending in their operation to improve the relative position of the more numerous classes of the population have been enacted. The public debt has, however, been again augmented, and no fresh sources of revenue have been resorted to. All parties consider it desirable that time should be given to ascertain the effects upon commerce and revenue which the reciprocity treaty with the United States may ere long produce.

85. My connexion with the government of the colony, which has existed only for sixteen months, is, I have reason to suppose, about to terminate. The difficulties which attend the present conduct of its affairs neither originated in nor have been aggravated by the policy adopted during that period, and I do not therefore consider it either expedient, or called for by my duty, that I should speculate as to the best mode of dealing with those difficulties in the future.

86. There are two measures, however, which it seems to me that common justice to the inhabitants at large requires; one, the transfer to the really wealthy city of St. John's of the expenditure on account of its police, streets, and local objects generally, with the maintenance of such poor as properly belong to its community; the other, to compel the lucrative import trade carried on on the coast of Labrador to contribute in its fair proportion to the colonial revenue. Not only do large mercantile houses, whose principals reside in Jersey, and at Poole in Dorsetshire, prosecute an extensive business with the population employed on that coast during the fishing season, by selling and bartering provisions, clothing, spirits, and supplies of other kinds, upon which no duty whatever is paid, but numerous transient traders from the British American provinces and the United States, participate in the same profitable pursuit.

87. This system of course operates unfairly upon those merchants resident in Newfoundland who also enter into the Labrador trade, but whose goods have been subjected to duty at the colonial custom houses; but its more palpable injustice lies in the fact that many thousands of those who maintain the trade are inhabitants of Newfoundland who migrate to the Labrador during the fishing season, returning on the approach of winter to avail themselves of the institutions supported by the colonial revenue, and too frequently to swell the list of paupers who are relieved from the same source.

88. Venturing, in conclusion, a glance at the remoter prospects of the colony, I may record my belief that the two principal events of its history in the year 1855, namely, the establishment of a system of Parliamentary Government, under which the middle and industrial classes, rightly estimating and wisely employing their advantages, may exercise a salutary influence, not only over the character and tendency of local legislation, but also in the general administration of affairs, and the adoption of the "reciprocity treaty," whereby improved markets have already been found for the staple exports, while other good results loom far from indistinctly, are destined gradually to secure to Newfoundland benefits both social and economical such as those which have so remarkably accompanied the progress of other British colonies in self-government and commercial freedom.

I have, &c.,

The Right Hon.
H. Labouchere, M.P.

(Signed) C. H. DARLING.

NEW-FOUNDLAND.

Enclosure 1. in No. 5.

A.

Encl. 1. in No. 5.

ABSTRACT of the TRADE of this COLONY, showing the SHIPS and TONNAGE employed, and the relative VALUE of the EXPORTS, distinguishing Foreign Goods from Goods of British Produce and Manufacture, during the Year ended 31st December 1855.

Countries for which Vessels cleared.	Vessels.		Value of Exports in Pounds Sterling.		
	Number.	Tons.	British.	Foreign.	Total.
			£	£	£
Europe, viz.—					
United Kingdom	103	14,803	462,356	21,570	483,926
Guernsey and Jersey	3	496	7,954	—	7,954
Ionian Islands	1	115	1,579	—	1,579
Malta	2	184	2,562	—	2,562
Spain	60	7,274	88,987	—	88,987
Portugal	99	13,436	164,911	—	164,911
Italy	28	4,103	51,755	—	51,755
Sicily	1	90	1,317	—	1,317
Germany	1	702	—	—	—
Africa, viz.—					
Azores	1	44	325	—	325
Teneriffe	1	174	480	—	480
America, viz.—					
British North American Colonies	458	51,531	74,784	31,397	106,181
British West Indies	72	10,232	90,462	355	90,817
Foreign West Indies, Spain	32	3,921	30,553	—	30,553
Ditto Denmark	2	560	—	—	—
United States	60	9,807	76,480	3,846	80,326
St. Pierre	3	6	9	—	9
Brazils	90	20,035	168,774	12	168,786
	1,017	137,513	1,223,288	57,180	1,280,468

Custom House, St. John's,
7th August 1856.

Encl. 2. in No. 5.

Enclosure 2. in No. 5.

B.

AN ACCOUNT of the NUMBER and TONNAGE of VESSELS cleared Outwards to each Nation in the Year 1855, with the NUMBER of MEN employed in navigating the same; distinguishing British from Foreign Ships.

Countries for which Vessels cleared.		Number.	Tons.	Men.
Europe, viz.—				
United Kingdom	British	98	14,049	798
" "	Foreign	5	754	58
Guernsey and Jersey	British	3	496	30
Ionian Islands	"	1	115	7
Malta	"	2	184	11
Spain	"	20	2,478	148
"	Foreign	40	4,796	373
Portugal	British	97	13,206	809
"	Foreign	2	230	19
Germany	"	1	702	22
Italy	British	28	4,103	253
Sicily	"	1	90	7
Africa, viz.—				
Teneriffe	Foreign	1	174	6
Azores	"	1	44	5
America, viz.—				
British North American Colonies	British	436	47,482	2,823
" " "	Foreign	22	4,049	154
" West Indies	British	71	10,017	580
" "	Foreign	1	215	12
Foreign " Spain	British	26	3,050	195
" " "	Foreign	6	871	48
" " Denmark	"	2	560	27
United States	British	45	5,714	318
"	Foreign	15	4,093	162
Brazils	British	85	19,000	1,003
"	Foreign	5	1,035	40
St. Pierre	British	3	6	6
		1,017	137,513	7,914

Custom House, St. John's,
7th August 1856.

Enclosure 3. in No. 5.

C.

ABSTRACT of the TRADE of this COLONY, showing the SHIPS and TONNAGE employed, and the relative VALUE of the IMPORTS, distinguishing Foreign Goods from Goods of British Produce and Manufacture, during the Year ended 31st December 1855.

Countries from which Vessels entered.	Vessels.		Value of Imports in Pounds Sterling.		
	Number.	Tons.	British.	Foreign.	Total.
Europe, viz.—			£	£	£
United Kingdom	165	29,170	369,507	24,595	394,102
Guernsey and Jersey	8	1,162	8,778	61	8,839
Spain	98	16,203	—	12,328	12,328
Portugal	96	12,989	—	17,019	17,019
Denmark	4	843	—	11,609	11,609
Germany	39	8,500	—	140,748	140,748
Italy	1	239	—	238	238
Africa, viz.—					
Azores	1	44	—	—	—
America, viz.—					
British North American Colonies	510	45,820	166,444	11,527	177,971
British West Indies	28	3,896	14,194	—	14,194
Foreign West Indies	55	6,883	—	159,728	159,728
United States	143	21,639	—	281,421	281,421
St. Pierre	24	496	—	547	547
Brazils	13	2,719	—	903	903
	1,185	150,603	558,923	660,724	1,219,647

Custom House, St. John's,
7th August 1856.

Enclosure 4. in No. 5.

D.

AN ACCOUNT of the NUMBER and TONNAGE of VESSELS entered Inwards from each Nation in the Year 1855, with the NUMBER of MEN employed in navigating the same; distinguishing British from Foreign Ships.

Countries from whence Ships arrived.		Number.	Tons.	Men.
Europe, viz.—				
United Kingdom	British	165	29,170	1,445
Guernsey and Jersey	"	8	1,162	76
Spain	"	72	13,331	638
"	Foreign	26	2,872	237
Portugal	British	91	12,321	732
"	Foreign	5	668	45
Denmark	British	4	843	45
Germany	"	28	5,203	264
"	Foreign	11	3,297	129
Italy	British	1	239	14
Africa, viz.—				
Azores	Foreign	1	44	5
America, viz.—				
British North American Colonies	British	507	45,241	2,968
" " "	Foreign	3	579	34
British West Indies	British	27	3,723	226
" "	Foreign	1	173	6
Foreign West Indies, Spain	British	37	4,613	276
" "	Foreign	18	2,270	167
United States	British	98	12,994	678
"	Foreign	45	8,645	321
Brazils	British	13	2,719	151
St. Pierre	"	22	260	53
"	Foreign	2	236	23
Total		1,185	150,603	8,533

Custom House, St. John's,
7th August 1856.

NEW-FOUNDLAND.

Encl. 5. in No. 5.

Enclosure 5. in No. 5.

E.

REPORT of the COMMITTEE of the NEWFOUNDLAND AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY, 1855.

IN taking a retrospect of the transactions of the Newfoundland Agricultural Society during the past year, our committee rejoice to believe that the efforts made by the society during that period have been followed by a considerable degree of success, and that the extension of and improvements in the agriculture of the colony are steadily adding to the welfare and comfort of a large portion of its inhabitants.

The increased price of grain and bread-stuffs induced the committee to import more extensively than usual barley and oats of the best description, the crops from which have proved so satisfactory as to induce the belief that a greater breadth of land will be set apart for these crops the ensuing season. Your committee would therefore recommend that the society should be prepared to offer to the farmers the same excellent description of seed, particularly barley, the benefit of this crop being now fairly appreciated wherever it has received the degree of cultivation it requires.

The success attending the cultivation of the early seed potatoes imported by the society for the last few years has again manifested itself in the abundant and healthy crops of the past season, a result so satisfactory as to stimulate the society to persevere in its efforts to distribute this valuable seed in every district of the colony, which perhaps is the only means of restoring confidence in the cultivation of this crop, so essential to the comfort of our population.

It is satisfactory to know that the efforts of the society to induce a more extensive cultivation of the turnip crop have been to a considerable extent successful, and your committee have it in their power to report their belief, that, notwithstanding an unfavourable season this crop has been a remunerative one to the farmers.

An annual supply of good turnip seed of the most approved kinds would tend greatly to advance the cultivation of this crop, and be not only the means of enabling many farmers to use the straw of their grain crops as fodder, in place of the present expensive system of feeding all descriptions of stock on the best upland hay, but would further be the means of inducing them to ripen the oat crop, which in too many instances is cut green for the cattle.

Wheat, although still shown to a limited extent, has been successful wherever it has received proper tillage, a result, coupled with the high price of bread and flour, which ought to induce farmers who have land fit for it to give this crop a more extensive trial.

It will be gratifying to the society to know that the improvement of the dairy stock in the colony steadily progresses, and that the attention of many intelligent farmers is steadily directed to it. We rejoice to find that the efforts of the society on this behalf are acknowledged and appreciated, and the society look anxiously for the means of obtaining a further importation of the best description of live stock.

It is to be regretted that the means placed at the disposal of the society during the past year did not allow your committee to carry out more fully the intentions of the society, by importing cattle from Great Britain; but it is satisfactory to know that means have been used to preserve the progeny from the best cattle at present in the colony, and that your committee have been enabled to supply young bulls of the pure Ayrshire breed to the settlements of Placentia, Bonavista, and Ferryland, where these animals have been placed in careful hands for the general good.

Although considerable progress has been made in this department of husbandry, much still remains to be done; and your committee beg to draw the attention of the society to the benefit that would accrue to the colony from a considerable importation of the Durham short-horned breed of cattle and of the Kerry cows; the former description of stock having proved the most remunerative for the dairy and the shambles, and the latter well adapted for the purposes and means of small farmers.

Early in the year a corresponding committee was appointed for the purpose of receiving and diffusing useful information relative to agricultural operations. By this committee were forwarded to the various out harbours copies of the society's agricultural pamphlet, accompanied by a circular calling attention to the supply of seeds ordered by the society from Great Britain, and inviting the parties interested in agricultural pursuits to form branch societies, to co-operate with us in extending the benefits of the society to the remotest settlements; and your committee refer with much satisfaction to the formation of a branch society at Bonavista, as a proof that the above-named committee have not been working in vain.

To the branch society at Bonavista grain and other seeds were forwarded last spring, and there is every reason to believe that much good may be done by this mode of distributing the seeds imported by the society.

The guano imported by the society sold freely, and was approved of as a most convenient and efficient manure. Many small farmers, who are not in the way of importing it themselves, are anxiously looking to the society for a further importation this year. The society think that there are other highly condensed manures which from the tendency to save labour might with advantage be tried.

The committee deem it their duty to impress upon the agriculturists the great value of vetches as a green crop, the importance of which is not duly appreciated.

On the arrival in the colony of Governor Darling, your committee presented a congratulatory address to his Excellency, and his Excellency in a most gracious reply was pleased to accede to the prayer of the address, by becoming patron of the society.

The deep interest taken by his Excellency's hearty co-operation in every matter connected with its welfare your committee would take this opportunity of gratefully acknowledging.

The society's agricultural show was held on the 19th of October, on the ground in front of the Colonial Building, on which occasion, notwithstanding the unfavourable state of the weather, and the necessary postponement upon a former day of the exhibition, the show of cattle, grain, and vegetables testified most satisfactorily to the capabilities of our soil and climate. His Excellency the Governor was present at the exhibition, and after an appropriate address delivered the several prizes to the successful competitors, and afterwards honoured the society with his presence at its annual dinner.

In awarding prizes at future exhibitions your committee would recommend that, instead of confining them to the small sums of money hitherto given, medals, books on agriculture, and improved agricultural implements should form a proportion of the awards. By this means, besides giving a stimulus to agricultural improvements, much valuable information would be diffused amongst the farmers, and new and improved implements would be placed in the hands of many who otherwise might never have an opportunity of knowing or appreciating their value.

It is gratifying to know that the patronage and support of the government are continued to the society; and the committee take this opportunity of gratefully acknowledging the co-operation of the legislature by liberal grants of money in aid of its funds.

By a judicious appropriation of the funds thus placed at their disposal, and by applying them solely for the public good, in developing the agricultural resources of the colony, the society hopes to merit a continuance of the confidence thus placed in them by the public.

Your committee congratulate the society upon the very large accession of 44 new members during the past year, which must greatly strengthen its hands and extend its usefulness.

Annexed are the treasurer's accounts, which exhibit a balance in favour of the society of 70*l.* 11*s.* 5*d.*, in addition to which a quantity of grain and other seeds are still on hand, valued at 88*l.* 9*s.* 3*d.*

C. F. Bennett,
President.

St. John's, Newfoundland,
9th January 1856.

Enclosure 6. in No. 5.

Encl. 6. in No. 5.

F.

Prizes to be awarded at the Agricultural Show to be held on Tuesday the 21st day of October 1856.

1. For the best sample of wheat of not less than one bushel, from not less than one acre, grown in Newfoundland, 1*l.* 10*s.*, "The Farmer's Guide," or a silver medal, at the option of the competitor.
2. For the best sample of wheat from not less than half an acre grown in Newfoundland, 1*l.* or "The Farmer's Guide," at the option of the competitor.
3. For the best sample of barley from not less than one acre grown in Newfoundland, 1*l.* 10*s.* or "The Farmer's Guide," at the option of the competitor.
4. For the best sample of barley, from not less than half an acre, grown in Newfoundland, 1*l.* or "The Farmer's Guide," at the option of the competitor.
5. For the best sample of oats from not less than two acres, grown in Newfoundland, 1*l.* 10*s.* or "The Farmer's Guide," at the option of the competitor.
6. For the best sample of oats, from not less than one acre, grown in Newfoundland, 1*l.* or "The Farmer's Guide," at the option of the competitor.
7. For the best sample of rye from not less than half an acre, grown in Newfoundland, "The Farmer's Guide."
8. For the best sample of hemp, from not less than 10 perches or 300 square yards, grown in Newfoundland, "The Farmer's Guide."
9. For the best sample of flax from not less than 10 perches or 300 square yards, grown in Newfoundland, "The Farmer's Guide."
10. For the best sample of potatoes, from not less than half an acre, grown in Newfoundland, a silver medal, or "The Farmer's Guide."
11. For the second best sample of potatoes from not less than half an acre, grown in Newfoundland, "The Farmer's Guide."
12. For the best sample of Swedish turnips from not less than half an acre, grown in Newfoundland, "The Farmer's Guide," and 1*l.*

NEW-FOUNDLAND.

13. For the best sample of yellow Aberdeen turnips from not less than half an acre, grown in Newfoundland, "The Farmer's Guide," and 10*s.*

14. For the best sample of any other sort of turnip from not less than half an acre, grown in Newfoundland, "The Farmer's Guide," and 10*s.*

15. For the best sample of mangold wurzel from not less than a quarter of an acre, grown in Newfoundland, a silver medal, or "The Farmer's Guide."

16. For the best sample of carrots from not less than 10 perches or 300 square yards, grown in Newfoundland, 10*s.*

17. For the best sample of parsnips from not less than 10 perches or 300 square yards, grown in Newfoundland, 1*l.*

18. For the best sample of cabbage, not less than 12 heads, from not less than 10 perches or 300 square yards, grown in Newfoundland, 10*s.*

19. For the best sample of salt butter of not less than 40 lbs., Newfoundland produce, a churn, or 1*l.*

20. For the second best sample of salt butter of not less than 40 lbs., Newfoundland produce, a churn, or 15*s.*

21. For the best cheese of not less than 10 lbs., Newfoundland produce, 10*s.*

22. For the second best cheese of not less than 10 lbs., Newfoundland produce, 7*s.* 6*d.*

23. For the best sample of homespun of not less than twenty yards, manufactured in Newfoundland, from the produce of the colony within the present year, 2*l.*

24. For the best sample of concentrated manure of not less than 1 cwt. made in Newfoundland from fish or seal offal, 5*l.*

25. For the best single-horse plough made in Newfoundland, and exhibited by the maker, selling price to be stated, 1*l.* 10*s.*

26. For the best drill plough made in Newfoundland, and exhibited by the maker, selling price to be stated, 1*l.* 10*s.*

27. For the best harrow made in Newfoundland and exhibited by the maker, selling price to be stated, 15*s.*

28. For the best drill grubber made in Newfoundland and exhibited by the maker, selling price to be stated, 1*l.*

29. For the best turnip drill made in Newfoundland, and exhibited by the maker, selling price to be stated, 1*l.*

30. For the best steel digging fork made in Newfoundland, and exhibited by the maker, selling price to be stated, 5*s.*

31. For the best land-roller made in Newfoundland, and exhibited by the maker, selling price to be stated, 10*s.*

32. For the best winnowing machine made in Newfoundland, and exhibited by the maker, selling price to be stated, 2*l.* 10*s.*

33. For the best set of cart harness made in Newfoundland from the manufactures of the colony, and exhibited by the maker, price to be stated, 2*l.* 10*s.*

34. For the best dairy cow pure Ayrshire breed, not under four and not over six years old, bred in Newfoundland, 2*l.*

35. For the best dairy cow pure Ayrshire breed, not under three and not over four years old, bred in Newfoundland, 2*l.*

36. For the best dairy cow pure Ayrshire breed, of any age, bred in Newfoundland, 1*l.* 10*s.*

37. For the best heifer pure Ayrshire breed, not under three years old, not calved, bred in Newfoundland, 1*l.* 10*s.*

38. For the best heifer pure Ayrshire breed, not under two years old, not calved, bred in Newfoundland, 1*l.*

39. For the best heifer calf pure Ayrshire breed, not over one year old, bred in Newfoundland, 1*l.*

40. For the best dairy cow of any breed, not pure Ayrshire, not under three and not over six years old, 2*l.*

41. For the best dairy cow of any age, of any breed, not pure Ayrshire, bred in Newfoundland, 1*l.* 10*s.*

42. For the best heifer not under three years old, of any breed, not pure Ayrshire, not calved, bred in Newfoundland, 1*l.* 10*s.*

43. For the best heifer not under two years old, of any breed, not pure Ayrshire, not calved, bred in Newfoundland, 1*l.*

44. For the best heifer calf under one year old, of any breed, not pure Ayrshire, bred in Newfoundland, 1*l.*

45. For the best bull of pure Ayrshire or Durham breed, not under three years old, bred in Newfoundland, 2*l.*

46. For the best bull of pure Ayrshire or Durham breed, under two years old, bred in Newfoundland, 1*l.*

47. For the best lot of sheep containing six, bred in Newfoundland, 1*l.* 10*s.*

48. For the best pig, bred in Newfoundland, 1*l.* 10*s.*

49. For the best breeding sow, bred in Newfoundland, 1*l.*

50. For the best colt or filly under three years old, bred in Newfoundland, 1*l.* 10*s.*

51. For the best colt or filly under two years old, bred in Newfoundland, 1*l.*

52. For the best sample of garden seeds, each not less than half a pound, grown in Newfoundland, 1*l.* 10*s.*

His Excellency the Governor will offer a prize of 10*l.* for the best set of farm accounts, exhibiting a statement of the operations on any farm having not less than four acres under cultivation, from the first day of May next until the first day of May 1857, showing the receipts and expenditure, and the profit and loss upon the operations, and including a detailed statement of any experiments with manures or high cultivation made upon the farm during the period over which the accounts extend; the whole to be a faithful statement of the transactions as they occurred.

REGULATIONS.

Animals for which prizes have been awarded at former exhibitions cannot be put in competition in the same class in which such prizes were taken.

The cost of all manufactures, implements, and manure, to be taken into account in awarding the prizes.

Samples of manures to be sent to the Agricultural Society in time to be tested in the ground the ensuing summer.

Parties intending to compete for the prize of 10*l.* to be given by his Excellency the Governor must forward their accounts to the Secretary of the Agricultural Society not later than the month of July 1857.

By order,

St. John's, Newfoundland,
15th April 1855.

W. F. RENNIE, Secretary.

Enclosure 7. in No. 5.

Encl. 7. in No. 5.

G.

MINUTE for his Excellency the Governor, CHARLES HENRY DARLING, Esquire, of the judicial tribunals and officers at present charged with the administration of justice in Newfoundland.

THE administration of justice in Newfoundland is at the present time vested in tribunals which were created under the provisions of the Imperial Statute, the 5 Geo.4. c. 67., entitled "An Act for the better Administration of Justice in Newfoundland, and for other purposes;" and by Royal Charter under the authority of that Statute, bearing date the 19th of September 1825.

The highest court in the colony is entitled "The Supreme Court." The Charter directs "that the same shall be composed of and holden by one chief judge and two assistant "judges;" and by the first section of the 5 Geo. 4. c. 67. it is enacted, that "the said court "shall be a court of record, and shall have all civil and criminal jurisdiction whatever "in Newfoundland, and in all lands, islands, and territories dependent upon the govern- "ment thereof, as fully and amply, to all intents and purposes, as His Majesty's Courts "of King's Bench, Common Pleas, Exchequer, and High Court of Chancery in that part "of Great Britain called England have or any of them hath; and the said Supreme "court shall also be a court of oyer and terminer and general gaol delivery in and for "Newfoundland, and all places within the government thereof."

The fourth section directs that actions, &c. brought in the Supreme Court for breach of any law relating to the trade or revenue of the British colonies in America shall be tried according to the course of proceeding in similar cases in the Courts of Vice-Admiralty in the said colonies or plantations.

The fifth section confers upon the Supreme Court jurisdiction to grant administration of the effects of intestates, and the probate of will, with other powers in relation to that jurisdiction.

The twenty-third section confers upon the Supreme Court jurisdiction to declare parties insolvent, and to make distribution of their estates.

Thus the Supreme Court has jurisdiction to hear and determine—

1st. Suits in equity.

2d. Actions, informations, and all other proceedings at law.

3d. Revenue causes in certain cases.

4th. Proceedings to obtain letters of administration and probate of wills.

5th. Causes in matters of insolvency.

All issues in fact in civil causes are tried by a special or petit jury, consisting of twelve persons, as in England, in all respects; with this exception, that the three judges preside at every trial.

In criminal cases, by an Act of the legislature of the colony (1 Vict. c. 4.), the criminal law of England in force on the 20th June 1837 is declared to be the law of this island, so far as the same can be applied; and subsequent amendments or alterations of that law are to be in force in this colony in twelve months after the passing thereof in England.

No appeal lies from the decisions of the Supreme Court to any tribunal in the colony; but by the Royal Charter an appeal to the Queen in Council, in matters above the amount or value of 500*l.* sterling, is given.

There are two terms of the Supreme Court in the year, fixed by an Act of the local legislature; the spring and fall terms. The former commences on the 20th of May

NEW-FOUNDLAND.

and sits for three weeks; and the latter commences on the 20th of November, and sits for three weeks.

The court is invested with a discretionary power to extend each of these terms for any period not exceeding one week, if the judges should deem it advisable to do so.

During these sittings every species of business within the jurisdiction of the court is disposed of, including trials of issues in fact by juries.

In addition to these two terms, the Supreme Court sits upon the first Monday in February, March, April, and July in each year, for the disposal of all matters, not requiring the intervention of a jury, as may be heard and determined by the said court in term-time.

The foregoing statement comprises a general outline of the jurisdiction, powers, and practice of the Supreme Court of this colony.

The seventh section of the 5 Geo. 4. c. 67. empowered the Governor by proclamation to apportion and divide the colony into three several districts; and the Royal Charter directs that there shall be within the colony three circuit courts, to be held in each of the three districts into which the colony may be divided, in pursuance of the said Act of Parliament, and that each of the same shall be holden by one of the judges of the Supreme Court.

These provisions were carried into effect by the creation of three circuit courts, which still continue to exercise their jurisdiction, viz., the Central Circuit Court, which holds its sittings in St. John's, the capital of the island, having jurisdiction over it, and also over the rural district around it; and the Northern and Southern Circuit Courts, which hold their sittings in the principal settlements along the northern and southern coasts of the island.

The jurisdiction of these courts is defined and declared in and by the ninth section of the 5 Geo. 4. c. 67., which enacts "that the said circuit courts shall be respectively "courts of record, and shall within the district in which it may be holden have and "exercise all such and the same jurisdiction, powers, and authority as is hereby vested "in the Supreme Court of Newfoundland throughout the whole of the said colony; saving "and excepting the trying and determining of treasons or misprisions of treason, and "felonies not within the benefit of clergy, and the hearing and determining of any "information, suit, or action for the breach or violation of any Act of Parliament relating "to the trade and revenue of the British colonies in America."

The sixteenth section of the Statute gives an appeal to the Supreme Court "for or in respect of any sum or matter at issue above or exceeding the value of 50*l.* sterling."

There are two terms of the Central Circuit Court in the year fixed by an Act of the local legislature; the spring and fall terms. The former commences on the 20th April, and sits for three weeks; and the latter commences on the 20th October, and sits for three weeks. As I have already stated in reference to the Supreme Court, the judges are authorized to extend each of these terms for a period not exceeding a week, if they deem it advisable to do so; and there are also sittings out of term, similar to those mentioned above respecting the Supreme Court, during the second week of the months of February, March, and July.

The courts are held only once a year in the several settlements in the northern and southern districts, with the exception of Harbour Grace, the principal settlement in the northern district, where the court sits for a few weeks in the spring and fall of each year.

In addition to these tribunals, we have a magistrates' court in St. John's, in which three stipendiary justices of the peace preside daily, to dispose of the criminal business within this district, hearing and determining in a summary manner minor offences, and taking informations, and holding parties to bail in cases of a more serious character.

They are also invested with jurisdiction over all cases respecting servants' wages, and also in other cases arising out of civil contracts to a limited amount; they also hold a court of general sessions of the peace every three months.

There is also in each of fourteen out-port settlements in the colony a stipendiary justice of the peace, and in several other settlements stipendiary constables are stationed for the preservation of the public peace.

The foregoing statement comprises the ordinary tribunals and officers charged with the administration of justice and the execution of the laws in this colony.

Independent of the tribunals to which I have referred, we have a Vice-Admiralty Court in Newfoundland, established under letters patent bearing date the 3d July 1843, and constituting the Chief Justice for the time being judge of that court, with jurisdiction, co-extensive with the High Court of Admiralty in England, over Newfoundland, the banks of Newfoundland, &c. &c., and its dependencies, with the exception of prize causes, which are not included in the letters patent.

The business in this court has not extended beyond the hearing of a few salvage causes in each year since I have had the honour of holding the office of Chief Justice, but I have no ground for intimating that the jurisdiction of this court is not regarded with favour in the colony.

I have, &c.

(Signed) Francis Brady,
Chief Justice of Newfoundland.

Enclosure 8. in No. 5.

Encl. 8. in No. 5.

STATEMENT of FURNITURE, &c. at Government House, taken on view the 30th August 1856.

PRINCIPAL FLOOR.

Dining Room.

1 set of dining tables and cover.
4 sideboards.
2 arm chairs.
28 chairs.
3 sets of window curtains.
3 window blinds.
1 fire screen.
Fender, fire irons, and hearth brush.
Carpet, hearthrug, and crumb cloth.
4 gas branches and shades.
1 large lamp and hangings.

The tables and chairs in this room are greatly worn.

Centre Drawing Room.

2 rosewood centre tables.
1 table cover.
2 card tables.
1 sofa table.
1 sofa.
2 couches.
2 arm chairs.
3 sets of window curtains and blinds.
Carpet and hearthrug.
Fender, fire irons, and hearth brush.
1 large mirror.
1 chiffoneer.
1 large lamp.
4 bone chairs.
2 footstools.

The whole of the furniture in this room is in good condition.

Small Drawing Room.

1 centre table.
2 card tables.
18 rosewood chairs.
4 bone chairs.
2 sofas.
3 arm chairs.
1 what not.
1 spider table.
3 sets of curtains and blinds.
1 sofa table.
1 large lamp.
Carpet and hearthrug.
Fender and fire irons.

All in good condition.

Private Secretary's Office.

1 writing table.
1 large press.
2 window curtains and blinds.
2 sets of drawers.
4 chairs.
Carpet, hearthrug, and fender.

All serviceable.

Governor's Room.

1 knee-holed writing table.
2 pillar and claw tables.
1 sofa.
1 sofa table.
1 small writing table.
1 book case.
1 arm chair.
7 imitation rosewood chairs.
Carpet and hearthrug.
Fender and fire irons.
3 sets of curtains and blinds.

Furniture indifferently good.

Council Chamber.

1 council table.
1 small press.
2 sets of curtains and blinds.
1 set containing 5 maps.
Fender and fire irons.
Carpet and hearthrug.
1 Franklin stove and screen.

There are no chairs for this room; when they are required they are brought from the Dining Room.

FRONT HALL AND PASSAGE.

1 dozen straight backed chairs.
1 Canadian stove and funnelling.
1 gas lamp.
Fender and fire irons.
1 umbrella stand.
2 flower stands.
4 tables.
Oilcloth covering on floor.

The tables and oilcloth are much worn.

Secretary's Chamber.

1 camp bed.
1 mattress.
1 pillow.
1 bolster.
1 feather bed.
1 arm chair.
2 dressing tables.
2 common chairs.
1 wardrobe.
1 set of chamber ware.
Fender and fire irons.
1 set of curtains and blinds.

Indifferently good.

Butler's Sleeping Room.

1 small press bed.
1 table.
1 chair.
Carpet, fender, and fire irons.
1 feather bed and pillow.

CHAMBER STORY.

Chamber No. 1.

1 four post bed and curtains.
1 palliasse.
1 wool bed.
1 feather bed.
1 bolster and 2 pillows.

NEW-FOUNDLAND.

2 dressing tables.
1 round table.
1 arm chair.
1 towel stand.
1 chest of drawers.
1 couch.
1 set of chamber ware.
4 chairs.
1 dressing glass.
1 stove and fire irons.
1 hearthrug.
1 set of curtains and blinds.

Serviceable.

No. 2.

1 French bed and curtains.
1 hair mattress.
1 wool bed.
1 set of window curtains and blinds.
1 carpet and hearthrug.
Fender and fire irons.
2 dressing tables.
1 dressing glass.
1 wardrobe.
1 chair.
Set of chamber ware.

Serviceable.

No. 3.

2 dressing tables.
2 dressing glasses.
1 set of chamber ware.
1 wardrobe.
1 chest of drawers.
3 chairs.
1 towel stand.
1 set of window curtains and blinds.
Carpet and hearthrug.
Fender and fire irons.

Serviceable.

No. 4.

1 four post bed and curtains.
1 palliasse.
1 wool bed.
2 bolsters and 2 pillows.
1 sofa.
1 card table.
1 chest of drawers.
1 arm chair.
3 common chairs.
1 set of curtains and blinds.
Carpet and rug.
Fender, fire irons, and coal chest.

No. 5.

1 chest of drawers.
1 writing table.
2 dressing tables.
1 commode.
1 arm chair.
3 cane-bottomed chairs.
1 dressing glass.
1 towel stand.
1 set of window curtains and blinds.
1 set of chamber ware.
Carpet and rug.
Fender and fire irons.

No. 6.

1 dressing table and glass.
1 wash stand.
1 deal chest of drawers.
1 deal table.
1 French bed.
1 feather bed and pillows.
2 Windsor chairs.
Carpet and rug.
Fender and fire irons.
1 set of window curtains and blinds
Part of a set of chamber ware.

Serviceable.

No. 7.

1 deal table.
1 arm chair.
1 fire screen.
Carpet and rug.
Set of fire irons.
1 deal press.
1 Windsor chair.
1 set of curtains and blinds.

Almost unserviceable.

No. 8.

2 deal presses.

No. 9.

2 chests of drawers.
2 small beds.
1 dressing table.
1 towel stand.
Carpet and rug.
Fender and fire irons.
2 straw palliasses.
1 hair mattress.
1 feather bed.
1 bolster.

No. 10.

1 French bed and curtains.
1 dressing table and glass.
1 wash stand.
1 towel stand.
Carpet and rug.
Fender and fire irons.
1 straw palliasse.
1 feather bed.
1 pillow.
2 cane-seated chairs.
1 set of window curtains.

Indifferently good.

No. 11.

2 tables.
1 arm chair.
1 cane-bottomed chair.
1 set of curtains and blinds.
1 gas lamp.
Carpet and rug.
Fender and fire irons.

Old and scarcely serviceable.

No. 12.

1 iron bed.
1 chest of drawers.
2 mattresses.
1 wash stand.

1 dressing table.
1 towel horse.
Carpet.
Fender and fire irons.
1 chair.
1 set of window curtains.
1 set of chamber ware.

No. 13.

1 camp bed, iron roof or curtains.
1 hair mattress.
1 feather bed, bolster, and pillows.
1 small press.
1 small table.
1 chest of drawers.
2 dressing tables.
Carpet and rug.
Towel stand.
Fender and fire irons.
Set of chamber ware.

Serviceable.

Bath Room.

1 large slipper bath.
1 French water-closet.
2 commode chairs.

All in good condition.

Maid Servants' Sleeping Room.

3 beds; curtains to one.
3 feather beds.
2 hair mattresses.
1 straw palliasse.
2 sets of old drawers.
1 table and dressing glass.
1 towel horse.

Men Servants' Sleeping Room.

1 French bed and curtains.
1 straw palliasse.
1 hair mattress.
1 dressing table.
Part of set of drawers.
Carpet and rug.
3 Windsor chairs.

Almost quite unserviceable.

Basement Story.

Kitchen.

1 kitchen table.
1 deal table.
1 block.
2 cradle roasting spits.
3 straight spits.
Wafer and beef steak tongs, &c. &c

Pastry Room.

1 marble table.
1 large mortar.
1 dripping frame.

Housekeeper's Room.

1 sideboard.
2 tables.
3 chairs.
Carpet, rug, fender and fire irons.

Servants' Hall.

1 deal table.
7 Windsor chairs.
2 forms.

Almost unserviceable.

There is a lot of 17 or 18 pairs of blankets and coverlids, but they are so old and worn as to be scarcely serviceable.

(Signed) Patrick Dwight.

St. John's, Newfoundland,
August 30, 1856.

BERMUDA.

No. 6.

No. 6.

Copy of a DESPATCH from Governor F. Murray to the Right Hon. H. Labouchere.

(No. 174.)

Bermuda, June 18, 1856.
(Received July 14, 1856.)

Sir,

I have the honour to transmit the Blue Book for the year 1855.

I am happy to report that the general state and prosperity of the Colony are satisfactory; this is strongly exemplified by the fact (as you will perceive by the tabular returns) that the exports have increased in value, when compared with last year, from 25,563*l.* to 41,420*l.*, and that the imports have increased from 120,389*l.* to 162,556*l.* To this sum must be added imports to the value of 9,332*l.* for the use of Her Majesty's military and naval forces, and that of the convict establishment, making the total imports 171,888*l.* There has also been an increase in the revenue, notwithstanding that the ad valorem percentage duty on imports had been reduced one per cent. Agricultural and commercial enterprise are steadily augmenting, and improved habits of industry are observable among the people generally.

I have, &c.

(Signed) FREEMAN MURRAY,
Governor and Commander-in-Chief.

The Right Hon. H. Labouchere,
&c. &c. &c.

PART II.

WEST INDIES, MAURITIUS, AND SEYCHELLES.

WEST INDIES.

JAMAICA.

JAMAICA.

No. 7.

No. 7.

Copy of a DESPATCH from Governor Sir H. Barkly to the Right Hon. H. Labouchere, M.P.

(No. 65.)

King's House, May 12, 1856.

Sir, (Received June 16, 1856.)

I have the honour to forward the Blue Book of this colony for the year 1855, and to submit such observations as may serve to elucidate the several statistical returns of which it consists.

Revenue and Expenditure.

2. The improvement which I have from time to time reported in the position of the island treasury, arising in part from economical management, but mainly from the increased rate of ad valorem duty imposed by 18 Vict. c. 1. on articles not specifically enumerated in the tariff, is fully borne out by the account sent, which is a copy of that for the financial year ending 10th October last, laid before the House of Assembly.

3. The old forms being still adhered to, the transactions are not perhaps so clearly exhibited as is desirable; but I may state generally, without entering into detail, that the current expenditure, exclusive of arrearages, tallied very closely with the estimates of the Executive Committee, amounting to about 200,000*l.*, and was, for the first time for many years, met out of the taxes actually raised within the period.

4. The returns of the local revenues and expenses of the twenty-two parishes into which the island is divided do not vary materially from those of last year, but they give no very correct idea of the matter, as the clerks of the vestry who furnish them can only give the amounts of money authorized to be assessed and spent,—the amounts collected and paid over by the collecting constables depending on the efficiency and regularity of those officers.

5. The military expenditure incurred by Great Britain was about 7,000*l.* less than in the preceding year. The reduction would have been double but for the increase in the naval force on the station, which augmented the commissariat charges.

Public Works.

6. Few undertakings which could be classed under this head have been in progress of late years, owing to the disorganization both of the public and parochial finances.

7. The completion of the new Lunatic Asylum at Kingston was last year sanctioned by the Assembly, and will soon, I trust, be accomplished; for though the building, on which large sums have been lavished, will never be well adapted for a tropical climate, nor afford accommodation at all corresponding to its cost, its situation out of the city, and in the midst of extensive grounds, renders it far more eligible than the crowded wards near the public hospital in which the lunatics are at present kept.

8. The new line of turnpike road authorized by 18 Vict. c. 66., from Kingston to the north side of the island, following the valley of the "Wag-Water" (Agua-alta of the Spaniards) from the Stoney Hill Barracks to Annotto Bay, is, I am happy to say, being constructed as rapidly as the nature of the soil and the necessity of studying its ultimate durability permit, and when completed will be the most useful public work executed in Jamaica for many years past. The necessity for a second carriage communication across the island has again been demonstrated by another landslip, which has for some weeks past rendered the "Bog-Walk," the narrow gorge to the northward of this town through which the only road of the sort runs, impassable for any vehicles save those light enough to be carried over by men.

9. Complaints are made by the press of the condition of the roads generally, resulting from their having been so long neglected two or three years ago; but as I travel about more than most people, I can, from observation, affirm that considerable improvement is being by degrees effected under the present Highway Act.

10. No steps have yet been taken by the Jamaica Railway Company to extend their line to Old Harbour under the powers granted by the Legislature, but the manager has just gone home in the hope that, now peace is concluded, the necessary capital will be obtainable not only for that section, but to continue a tramway thence through Vere and Clarendon to the foot of the Manchester Hills.

Legislation.

11. A portion of that of two sessions is as usual comprised within the year, the Legislature generally meeting about October in the one year and continuing to sit until March or April.

12. The Acts of 18th Victoria passed in the early part of 1855 were very numerous, and I may recapitulate those of permanent interest—Chapter 22, to substitute in certain cases service in agricultural labour, on certain conditions, for part of the sentences of prisoners in the General Penitentiary, the satisfactory working of which has been already reported; Chapter 25, to amend the laws relating to the collection of taxes, which will in time correct the evils elsewhere alluded to; Chapter 37, for the more efficient audit of the public and parochial accounts; and Chapter 59, to exempt mines and minerals from impost in respect of the rights of the Crown for a limited number of years, which, in conjunction with other Acts to facilitate the granting of mining leases, and to amend the law relative to the regulation of mining companies and partnerships, has had the desired effect of encouraging the investment of capital in such undertakings.

13. The only Act of any importance passed prior to Christmas in the session of 1855–6 was that "further to reduce the salaries of the clergy, and to pro- "vide for the payment of such reduced salaries for a term of fourteen years." —19 Vict. c. 6.

Civil Establishment.

14. The only change of importance was occasioned by the death of Mr. O'Reilly, who has been succeeded in the Attorney Generalship by Mr. Heslop, a member of Assembly, who accepted it, under the sanction of Her Majesty's Government, on a political tenure.

15. In the Customs department four tide-waiters were appointed, under authority of 18 Vict. c. 1., and a few other moves occurred from deaths or other causes, which led to promotions from below. The young men introduced into the service were the most respectable and best educated I could find. The new office of Inspector of Invoices, created by the same Act, I conferred on a gentleman who had formerly been a dry-goods merchant in Kingston, as it required special knowledge and aptitude for the duty.

16. The ecclesiastical establishment underwent some alterations. Three rectories fell vacant during the year,—two by death, one through the exchange of the incumbent to a curacy in Kingston. They were filled up by curates of long standing. Eight curacies on the island establishment, including those thus vacated, had to be supplied, either by clergymen returning from leave of absence, or by those heretofore paid by the Bishop through the treasury grant or the aid of the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel. Two additional curates were admitted into the diocese and placed on his Lordship's stipendiary list.

17. Only six clergymen were absent from the island at any time during the year, and of these two subsequently retired from the colonial church, and three resumed their duties, so that a few weeks since one curate only of the entire establishment was away on leave.

Population.

18. The treasury was not in a position last session to justify my urging the fresh census, which I admitted, when sending home the last Blue Book, to be so desirable, but I trust it has only been deferred till the next.

JAMAICA.

19. Happily no epidemic marked the course of the year 1855, and as the large body of labourers who had gone to work on the Panama Railway, and elsewhere on the Spanish main, in most instances returned, it may be reasonably inferred that the number of inhabitants increased during its currency.

20. Immigration from every quarter is entirely at a stand-still.

Education.

21. The returns sent in show, I am happy to say, an increase of between two and three thousand scholars, the aggregate for 1854 having been 17,536; for 1855, 19,879. This increase would have been at least a thousand larger, but for the neglect of parties in charge of schools to fill up the forms transmitted,—Woolmer's free school at Kingston, where there are about seven hundred scholars, and the Roman Catholic schools, which have between two and three hundred, alone making that reduction from last year, when they were duly included.

22. The increase was pretty evenly distributed over the schools of the several religious denominations,—the Church of England claiming nearly one thousand of it; the Moravians almost seven hundred; the Wesleyans three hundred; the Baptists upwards of eight hundred; and the London Missionaries two hundred.

23. Since all but the two last accept State aid, their extended operations would appear attributable to the restoration of a grant for educational purposes last spring, whilst that step, so far from having injured the schools on the voluntary principle, as predicted by its opponents, really seems to have done them good,—in all probability, by exciting the emulation of the masters, and setting an example to the parents of dissenting children.

24. It is a strange coincidence, at any rate, that when the grant was withdrawn by the Assembly in 1853, the schools of the Baptists and Independents suffered as I pointed out at the time, even more than those of the State-assisted churches, and that when it was renewed again in 1855 they should simultaneously have recovered their numbers.

25. As many of those who abstain from participation in the grant refuse to send in returns of their scholars, it is probable that Mr. Richard Hill's estimate, in his last Half-yearly Report, of there being 24,000 children who receive instruction at the present moment, is not far from the mark; and as there seems no reason either to question his calculation, based on the ages in the last census, of there being 64,000 between 5 and 15, the fearful inadequacy of existing arrangements may be inferred.

26. It is contended, indeed, by an influential party that the result is attributable, not to the want of opportunities for education, but to the indifference of the negroes to the education of their offspring, even gratuitously, and their insuperable repugnance to contribute the smallest sum for the purpose.

27. There is, I am sorry to say, too much truth in the latter charge; but in regard to the former, I should not, from my own observation, say that it was one whit more applicable to the peasantry of Jamaica than to that of Great Britain; and until far more ample and convenient means of instruction than now exist have been placed within their reach, I certainly think it would be both unfair and impolitic to make education compulsory, as suggested conscientiously by some, but with no great sincerity, I fear, by others.

Crime.

28. The returns from the several gaols continue to testify to the comfortable condition and peaceable disposition of the lower orders. The greatest number of prisoners in confinement at any one time during 1855 was 927, against 908 in 1854; but, on the other hand, the number on 31st December of the latter year was reduced to 583, instead of to 700.

Enclosure 1.

29. With a view of tracing this important subject further, I enclose, as last year, returns from the Inspector of Prisons regarding the General Penitentiary, which is under his immediate superintendence.

30. The commitments to that institution, which are for the more serious class of offences, were 397, against 433 in the corresponding period of the preceding year, the proportion of re-convictions rising, however, from under a sixth to over a fifth.

31. The "tabular view" of convictions for each offence shows a remarkable uniformity with the previous classification sent, the alterations in all cases being for the better; and had I forwarded it directly after the close of the year, I should certainly have taken occasion to congratulate the colony on the extreme rarity of capital crimes, no execution, moreover, having taken place during the period. About two months ago, however, one of those sudden and unaccountable outbursts of evil passion against which no human institutions are proof, manifested itself, and, without the slightest apparent cause or connexion, half a dozen dreadful murders or homicides occurred almost simultaneously in different parts of the island.

32. In reference to minor offences, I enclose the usual synopsis of cases disposed of by the stipendiary magistrates for the last six months of 1855, exhibiting also an improvement over those for the corresponding period of 1854. There was, however, during a part of the time one magistrate less employed.

Enclosure 2.

Coins and Exchanges.

33. Resuming the consideration of the returns in the order in which they are bound up, I proceed next to glance at the monetary condition of the colony, as evidenced by the amount of paper currency in circulation, and am glad to be able to state that, as predicted in my last year's Despatch with the Blue Book, the withdrawal, by means of the guaranteed loan, of the irredeemable notes put forth by the island treasury, induced the banks so to increase their issue of notes payable in specie on demand, that that of the Colonial Bank, which was only 43,031*l.* on 31st December 1854, stood on 31st December 1855 at 89,248*l.*, whilst that of the Bank of Jamaica rose from 25,456*l.* to 41,408*l.*

34. In short, notwithstanding the fears expressed as to the effect of calling in and destroying the island notes, and leaving the circulation to the discretion of the banks, the aggregate amount of paper money is larger by several thousand pounds than it was prior to the disturbance of public credit in 1853, as shown by the following statement:—

	1851.	1852.	1853.	1855.
Island Notes -	£52,337	£52,337	£52,337	£ 9,255
Colonial Bank -	41,110	35,805	37,417	89,248
Jamaica Bank -	42,336	37,599	32,437	41,408
	£135,783	£125,741	£122,191	£139,911

The result is, I trust, attributable to a slight revival in the trade of the colony.

Imports and Exports.

35. Such a revival is distinctly traceable in these returns; the comparison for the last four years standing as under, after correction of an error into which I was last year betrayed by the total omission from the Custom House tables —which were very carelessly prepared by the then Comptroller of Navigation Laws—of the value of British goods imported:—

	Imports.	Exports.
1852 - - - -	£837,894	£927,377
1853 - - -	864,094	837,276
1854 - - - -	926,166	932,316
1855 - - -	899,508	1,003,325

And it must be borne in mind, moreover, that both the imports and exports of the last year would have appeared larger but for their being those of 360 days only, the returns being for the first time made up, pursuant to instructions from home, to the 31st December, instead of, as heretofore, to the 5th January following,—five days at the busiest season being thus short-reckoned on the occasion of the change.

36. Taking the imports, however, as stated, the proportional value from each country with which Jamaica trades varied but little from the previous year; though there was some reduction both as regards the products of Great Britain and the United States, and some increase in those from the North American colonies and from foreign countries.

JAMAICA.

37. The value, on the contrary, of produce exported to the two former was considerably larger,—in the case of the United States in particular, rising from 71,322*l.* in 1854 to 118,253*l.* in 1855, the position of the sugar market in New York attracting towards the close of the year large shipments, and thus accelerating that extension of commercial intercourse which, now that protecting duties in the home market are abolished, must naturally arise.

38. Strange to say, the value of direct exports from Jamaica to the British colonies in North America is trifling in the extreme, though the import trade almost rivals that from the United States in extent.

39. Foreign states appear at first sight to have taken less than in the previous year, but, from what the collector of customs tells me, this is not really the case, the sum of 35,856*l.* set down, it would seem erroneously, under the item "Elsewhere," below the general heading "British Colonies," consisting entirely of the value of rum and pimento shipped direct to Bremen, it is not difficult to conceive owing to the blockade of Russian ports in the Baltic.

40. I am afraid that the substitution this year of the values declared by the merchants for those calculated by the officers of Customs has not tended to increased correctness, so far as the valuation of exports is concerned; and as Sir William Molesworth's Circular Despatch of 22nd September last seems to leave the mode of valuing optional, I shall suggest a recurrence to the old practice, though that was loose enough.

41. For example, in 1854 the quantity of sugar shipped was calculated by the comptroller, upon the number of hogsheads, at 440,911 cwt., and its value at 430,117*l.*, or very nearly 20*s.* per cwt. The crop of 1855 was notoriously smaller, but the price as indubitably higher; and yet the returns for the present Blue Book,—the weights and values being, I am assured, summed up from the merchants' declarations,—show 514,651 cwt. shipped at a valuation of 364,687*l.* only, or 14*s.* 2*d.* per cwt.

42. It is clear that in the former year the weight was under-estimated and the price over-estimated; whilst in 1855, presuming the shipping weight, as is probable, to have been correctly given, and allowing 10 per cent. for drainage on the voyage home, the valuation must be at least 100,000*l.* under the mark.

43. I observe also, on looking at these returns, that the more detailed statements as to shipping required by the circular above referred to are not included, but I have called on the principal officers of Customs to rectify the omission if the records of their department enable them to do so, and the forms can in that event be transmitted afterwards, which seems preferable to detaining the whole Blue Book. Those now sent show a diminution of no less than 10,000 tons entered inwards, but an augmentation of 3,000 tons entered outwards.

Agriculture.

44. This important head of the Blue Book is, as usual, a blank, owing to the absence of all statistical information as to the growing crops; but I am sorry to say the general opinion is, in regard to that now in course of manufacture, that from the continued wet weather it will turn out less even than that of last year. To the 5th April nevertheless the shipments were some 3,000 hogsheads in excess. For the ensuing year, "the planter's year," as it is often ironically styled, the rains are favourable, and there can be little doubt that the extraordinary rise in the value of sugar last autumn led to a larger area than usual being planted in canes.

45. The position of the planters, indeed, is a very puzzling one,—for instead of the opening of the home market to the sugars of all countries on equal terms having, as anticipated, produced such steadiness of price as would have at once enabled them to determine whether to continue their competition or abandon it as fruitless, it has been followed by fluctuations unprecedented for at least forty years before, and their business is thus rendered little better than gambling.

46. Sugars which in the autumn of 1854, after the equalization of duty, would not net to the shipper more than 7*l.* to 8*l.* per hogshead, at the same period of 1855 were sold at 35*l.* to 40*l.* per hogshead, a rise of 500 per cent., which was followed as suddenly by a fall to 10*l.* or 12*l.* per hogshead, from which the price is again recovering.

47. Without venturing to inquire how far these extraordinary variations arose from natural causes, or were promoted by recent fiscal legislations, as maintained

out here, or, on the other hand, whether it would not have been wiser ten years since to have smoothed the inevitable difficulties of the transition from slavery to free labour in the British West Indies, even at the temporary sacrifice of a postponement of cheap sugar from slave colonies for a brief period longer, there can be no question that this state of things very much enhances the importance of keeping up their cultivation such as it now is, and this can only be done by encouraging immigration, the tendency of the native population being to retire more and more every day from the cultivation of the staples.

48. I have so frequently expressed my views on this subject, and this present Report has already grown to such a length, that I will not enter upon it again now; but I cannot refrain from forwarding, as an enclosure to this Despatch, the last Half-yearly Report of Mr. Ewart, which was too late to go with those of the other stipendiary magistrates, because I concur very much in his description of the results of emancipation in Jamaica, and share his opinion likewise as to the expediency and practicability of inducing the free coloured people of the United States to settle in the island, and by their skill and intelligence supply a remedy for evils which—as this gentleman is himself of the mixed race—he can hardly be supposed to have exaggerated.

Enclosure 3.

49. In the United States I do not imagine much difficulty need be anticipated with regard to such a scheme. The State Legislatures of Baltimore, Maryland, and other territories lying intermediate between slavery and freedom, have passed Acts obliging the free blacks to remove within a certain period, and I am assured on good authority that the colonization societies established in furtherance of this object would be prepared, if half only of the cost of conveyance were borne by Jamaica, to exert all their influence to direct the stream of immigration hitherward instead of to Liberia, to which the passage is so expensive as to limit their operations.

50. With regard to the free blacks themselves a slight impetus only needs to be given. I have now before me "the Proceedings of the National Emigration "Convention of Coloured People held at Cleveland, Ohio, on the 24th, 25th, and "26th August 1854," at which the commissioners of the different states determined, that as Canada would probably sooner or later be merged in the Union, it was not advisable for them to settle permanently there, and that the British West Indies, Central and South America, should be "the countries of their choice," in the former especially "all the inhabitants enjoying equality of "political privileges, restrictions on account of colour being entirely unknown."

51. It would seem to need, therefore, but the offer of a free passage, and of grants of land in this colony, to create a very extensive immigration; and though I have been hitherto unsuccessful in persuading a majority of the Legislature either to apply a portion of the immigration loan to the former purpose, or to facilitate the resumption of lands on which quitrents have remained long unpaid,—with a view to the latter I still hope that I may be able to reconcile the conflicting views entertained, and that next session will not pass over without proper steps being taken.

52. To conclude:—Last year I could sum up my Report with no greater amount of encouragement than an assurance that the position of the colony had grown no worse, and that its prospects were by no means desperate; this year I am fairly entitled to found on the facts and figures I have passed in review much more sanguine inferences; and though difficulties and drawbacks still remain to be encountered, I feel far more confident of the ultimate restoration of prosperity than I ever did before.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HENRY BARKLY.

The Right Hon. H. Labouchere, M.P.,
&c. &c. &c.

JAMAICA.

Enclosure 1. in No. 7.

GENERAL PENITENTIARY.

Year ending 30th September 1854.	£	s.	d.	Year ending 30th September 1855.	£	s.	d.
Cost of dieting 421 prisoners in 1854	2,354	14	11	Cost of dieting 419 prisoners in 1855	2,663	6	3
Average daily number of prisoners in custody	421.			Average daily number of prisoners in custody	419.		
Average cost of dieting one prisoner per diem	0	0	3¾	Average cost of dieting one prisoner per diem	0	0	4
Daily average number of officers, 52.				Daily average number of officers, 55.			
Do. do. cost of superintendence	0	0	5¼	Do. do. cost of superintendence	0	0	5¾
Cost of miscellaneous charges, such as clothing, bedding, medicine, implements of labour, and other heads of expenditure	0	0	3¾	Cost of miscellaneous charges, such as clothing, bedding, medicine, implements of labour, and other heads of expenditure	0	0	3¾
Total cost per diem	£0	1	0¾	Total cost per diem	£0	1	1½

TABLE of CONVICTIONS to the GENERAL PENITENTIARY.

Year ending 30th September 1854.	Prisoners.	Year ending 30th September 1855.	Prisoners.
Convicted for the first time	368	Convicted for the first time	310
Re-convictions	65	Re-convictions	87
Total	433	Total	397

Statistical Table, General Penitentiary.

Year ending September 30, 1855.

Number in Custody, 356.

AGES.

Under 17 years	10
„ 25 „	23
From 25 to 30 years	189
„ 30 to 40 „	106
Above 40 years	28
Total	356

State of Education.

Could read on admission	103
Are learning	51
Cannot read	202
Total	356

COLOUR.

Black	315
Coloured	28
White	13
Total	356

Country.

Natives	295
Not natives	56
Total	356

Under sentence of transportation	16

CRIMES.

Horse stealing	8
Sheep stealing	3
Forgery	2
Perjury	22
Burglary	226
Larceny	11
False pretences	3
Embezzlement	5
Highway robbery	1
Arson	6
Manslaughter	5
Murder	4
Cutting and wounding	18
Cutting and wounding with intent	2
Stabbing and wounding	1
Cutting and maiming	3
Assault	3
Assault with intent	7
Rape	4
Sodomy	1
Against nature	6
Attempt to poison	1
Killing cattle	3
Killing sheep	3
Killing a pony	1
Killing a mule	1
Killing an ass	2
Wounding cattle	1
Wounding and maiming mules	2
Malicious mischief	1
Total	356

Under sentence of imprisonment	340

ADMITTED.

Number in custody 30th September 1854, as per last return	371
Received from Courts of Assize during the year	65
„ „ Quarter Sessions during the year	332
Total	768

DISCHARGED.

Discharged during the year	235
Released as agricultural labourers under "Penal Servitude Act"	145
Pardoned by the Governor	26
Died during the year	6
Number in custody to date	356
Total	768

Number of re-convictions during the year	87

TABULAR VIEW of the Number of PRISONERS received into the GENERAL PENITENTIARY from COURTS of ASSIZE and QUARTER SESSIONS, from 1st October 1854 to 30th September 1855.

COURTS.	1 Horse Stealing.	2 Cattle Stealing.	3 Forgery.	4 Perjury.	5 Burglary.	6 Larceny.	7 False Pretences.	8 Receiving Stolen Goods.	9 Feloniously Receiving.	10 Highway Robbery.	11 Embezzlement.	12 Arson.	13 Murder.	14 Manslaughter.	15 Cutting and Wounding.	16 Cutting and Wounding with Intent.	17 Stabbing and Wounding.	18 Cutting and Maiming.	19 Conspiracy.	20 Assault.	21 Assault with Intent.	22 Rape.	23 Against Nature.	24 Soliciting to Kill.	25 Attempting Poison.	26 Killing Cattle.	27 Killing Sheep.	28 Killing a Pony.	29 Killing a Mule.	30 Killing an Ass.	31 Wounding Cattle.	32 Wounding and Maiming Mules.	33 Rogue and Vagabond.	34 Malicious Mischief.	Total.
MIDDLESEX.																																		
Assize Courts	—	—	1	1	—	12	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	2	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	23
St. Catherine Quarter Sessions	—	—	—	—	—	23	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	25
St. Thos. ye Vale „ „	1	—	—	—	2	4	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	8
Clarendon „ „	—	—	—	—	—	16	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	22
Vere „ „	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Manchester „ „	—	—	—	—	4	18	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	24
St. Mary „ „	—	—	—	—	1	6	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	14
St. Ann „ „	—	—	—	—	1	15	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	16
Total	1	—	1	1	8	95	1	1	—	1	—	—	—	2	2	1	1	4	—	2	3	2	3	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	1	—	1	—	133
SURREY.																																		
Assize Courts	—	—	2	1	1	8	—	—	2	—	—	5	—	1	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	2	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	27
Kingston Quarter Sessions	—	—	—	—	1	45	3	—	2	—	3	—	—	—	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	59
Port Royal „ „	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
St. Andrew „ „	2	—	—	—	2	15	1	3	—	—	1	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	26
St. Thos. ye East „ „	1	—	—	—	2	16	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	24
St. David „ „	—	—	—	—	—	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4
Portland „ „	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	6
St. George „ „	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	6
Metcalfe „ „	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	4
Total	3	—	2	1	6	96	6	4	4	—	4	5	—	1	14	—	—	—	—	—	2	2	2	1	1	—	1	1	—	1	—	1	—	—	158
CORNWALL.																																		
Assize Courts	—	—	—	—	2	4	—	—	—	—	1	1	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	13
St. Elizabeth Quarter Sessions	—	—	—	—	—	27	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	35
Hanover „ „	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4
Westmoreland „ „	2	1	—	—	1	18	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	28
Trelawny „ „	—	—	—	—	1	8	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	11
St. James „ „	—	—	—	—	—	10	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	13
Total	2	1	—	—	4	67	—	1	1	—	1	1	1	1	6	—	—	1	1	1	4	—	1	—	—	4	3	—	—	—	—	2	—	1	104
CAYMANAS.																																		
Assize Court	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
GRAND TOTAL	6	1	3	2	18	258	7	6	5	1	5	6	1	6	22	1	1	5	1	3	9	4	6	1	1	4	4	1	1	2	1	3	1	1	397

Enclosure 2. in No. 7.

SYNOPSIS of the Quarterly Returns of CRIME received from Stipendiary Magistrates, for the Three Months ended 30th September 1855.

Names of Districts.	Contempt of Court.	Trespass.		Petty Thefts.	Assaults.	Assaults upon Women and Children.	Assaults on Police and other Officers.	Cruelty to Animals.	Breach of the Peace.	Breach of Contract.	Offences against													Total Number of Convictions.	Names of Stipendiary Magistrates.
		Furtive.	Common and Malicious.								Towns and Communities Act.	Masters and Servants Act.	Spirit Licence Act.	Highway Act.	Vagrancy Act.	Merchant Seamen's Acts. British.	Merchant Seamen's Acts. Jamaica.	Tradesmen's Act.	Pound Law.	Hawkers and Pedlars Act.	Fisheries Act.	Penal Servitude Act.	Public Markets Act.		
Portland	–	–	1	4	4	–	–	–	–	–	8	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	17	Lake, Charles.
St. David	–	2	1	–	5	–	–	–	2	–	4	1	1	2	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	18	Fyfe, Alexander Gordon.
Port Royal	–	–	–	–	9	–	–	–	4	–	3	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	16	Kent, Henry.
St. Andrew	–	4	1	4	31	–	–	–	8	2	31	2	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	6	–	89	Ewart, David.
Kingston	–	–	1	20	57	–	–	–	–	–	124	3	–	–	13	–	6	2	–	–	–	–	–	226	Willis, George.
St. Catherine	–	–	–	5	8	1	–	–	–	–	38	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	52	Hill, The Hon. Richard.
St. John	–	–	–	1	3	1	–	–	–	–	8	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	13	
St. Dorothy	–	1	2	3	2	–	–	–	–	–	10	1	3	–	–	–	–	–	1	–	–	–	–	23	Bell, William Anthony.
St. Thomas in ye Vale	–	–	–	9	12	–	–	–	–	–	17	4	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	1	–	–	–	43	Jackson, Thomas Witter.
St. Mary	–	–	4	12	14	–	–	–	3	3	13	2	–	–	3	–	–	–	1	–	1	–	–	56	Walsh, Henry.
St. Ann	–	6	16	1	21	–	6	1	3	–	21	12	–	–	–	–	–	–	1	–	–	2	–	90	Dillon, Theobald Augustus.
Clarendon	–	2	3	2	11	–	–	–	–	–	26	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	44	Crewe, Henry.
Manchester	–	9	7	5	22	–	–	–	–	–	35	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	78	Laidlaw, Henry.
Trelawny	1	15	8	18	36	8	2	–	–	–	40	10	–	8	1	–	2	1	3	1	–	–	2	156	Emery, Robert. Kelly, Daniel Winder.
St. James	–	16	4	5	46	–	–	–	–	–	32	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	103	Chamberlaine, Richard.
	1	55	48	89	281	10	8	1	20	5	410	35	4	10	17	–	8	3	6	2	1	8	2	1,024	

King's House, 9th April 1856.

HUGH W. AUSTIN, Governor's Secretary.

SYNOPSIS of the Quarterly Returns of CRIME received from Stipendiary Magistrates, for the Three Months ended 31st December 1855.

Names of Districts.	Petty Thefts.	Trespass.		Assaults on Police and other Officers.	Assaults on Women and Children.	Assaults.	Cruelty to Animals.	Breach of Peace.	Breach of Contract.	Dog Stealing.	Offences against									Total Number of Convictions.	Names of Stipendiary Magistrates.
		Furtive.	Common and Malicious.								Pound Law.	Highway Act.	Fisheries Act.	Petty Debt Act.	Towns and Communities Act.	Vagrancy Law.	Merchant Seamen's Act.	Masters and Servants Act.	Tradesmen's and Hawkers and Pedlars Acts.		
Portland	5	–	6	–	–	11	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	17	–	–	–	–	39	Lake, Charles.
St. David	–	3	–	–	–	4	1	–	–	–	1	–	–	11	2	–	–	–	–	22	Fyfe, Alexander Gordon.
Port Royal	1	–	–	–	–	12	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	9	–	–	–	–	22	Kent, Henry.
St. Andrew	5	7	4	1	–	17	–	–	1	1	–	–	–	–	28	1	–	–	–	65	Ewart, David.
Kingston	39	–	1	–	–	49	2	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	106	4	7	4	–	212	Willis, George.
St. Catherine	10	–	1	–	2	15	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	45	–	–	–	–	73	Hill, The Hon. Richard.
St. John	–	–	–	–	–	6	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	1	–	–	–	–	7	
St. Dorothy	1	1	1	–	–	5	1	–	–	–	1	–	–	–	6	–	–	–	–	16	Bell, William Anthony.
St. Thomas in ye Vale	3	–	2	1	–	16	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	14	–	–	1	1	38	Jackson, Thomas Witter.
St. Mary	5	–	2	–	–	14	1	1	1	–	3	–	1	–	13	–	–	–	–	41	Walsh, Henry.
St. Ann	4	7	22	4	–	30	–	6	–	–	–	2	–	–	26	1	–	3	–	105	Dillon, Theobald Augustus.
Clarendon	1	3	8	–	–	10	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	28	–	–	–	–	50	Crewe, Henry.
Manchester	6	4	15	–	–	21	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	16	–	–	–	–	62	Laidlaw, Henry.
Trelawny	9	13	3	4	3	42	2	–	–	–	1	9	–	–	40	–	–	9	2	137	Emery, Robert. Kelly, Daniel Winder.
St. James	4	12	6	–	–	23	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	41	–	–	–	–	86	Chamberlaine, Richard.
	93	50	71	10	5	275	7	7	2	1	6	11	1	11	392	6	7	17	3	975	

King's House, 9th April 1856.

HUGH W. AUSTIN, Governor's Secretary.

Enclosure 3. in No. 7.

HALF-YEARLY REPORT from D. EWART, Esq., Stipendiary Magistrate, to HUGH W. AUSTIN, Esq., Governor's Secretary.

SIR, St. Andrew, March 15, 1856.

I HAVE the honour to transmit my Report for the last half year.

From the period of emancipation until now, two parties have watched, with unabated interest, the progress of events in the West Indies: one represented all that was hopeful for the black race; the other looked with sad forebodings to the prospects of the proprietary; and I venture to say that no period in the history of any people has been examined with more interest and deeper solicitude. Missionary zeal collected from time to time the animating results which freedom exhibited, and sent forth the most satisfactory representations of the order, morality, and advancing industry of the people; Blue Book upon Blue Book, filled from year to year with the current testimony of functionaries of all grades, attested the interest with which Parliament exacted the fullest information upon West Indian affairs. Distinguished men, imbued with those feelings of active benevolence which maintained the anti-slavery spirit in all its efforts for freedom, became tropical tourists, and examined for themselves the progress of a race in whose welfare they were so deeply interested. Meanwhile the proprietary, who saw nothing but ruin looming in the distance, were equally sedulous in promulgating their opinions. The controversies which arose on this subject are consequently remarkable for the dissimilar views propounded by each party. As a specimen of these, we have on the one hand the excellent Mr. Gurney, who thus expatiates on the prosperity which he believed was to be the result of freedom:—"All parties ought to unite in promoting the coming of the "day (as I believe not far distant, for we already see the dawn of it) when the merchant-"men which frequent the harbours of Jamaica shall be multiplied; when the staple "productions of sugar and coffee shall more than recover their former amount; when "abundance of free-grown cotton shall be added to the list; when vegetable provisions "shall be poured forth at a cheap rate from the mountains into the towns; when flocks "of sheep, as well as yet larger heads of oxen and kine, shall cover the pastures; when, "in fact, one of the most favoured and delightful spots on the globe shall be distinguished "by a corresponding superiority in the wealth and substantial comfort of its inhabitants." This glowing representation was welcomed in all parts of England, but it was met shortly after by the following gloomy picture from the pen of the present Sir Archibald Alison:—"In short, the agricultural produce of the island (Jamaica) is totally disappear-"ing: the negroes, in the great majority of instances, either will not work at all for any "wages, or are so extravagant in their demands for wages, and so irregular and incon-"stant in their habits, as to render it altogether impossible to continue the cultivation "of sugar and coffee with any prospect of profit. Unless some other race can be intro-"duced, who will supply their places by free labour, and they peaceably retire to the "mountains in the interior, there to squat and lead a life of savage indolence and "penury, nothing is more certain than that before a long period has elapsed the culti-"vation of sugar in the West Indies will have entirely ceased, and nine-tenths of the "estates will irrevocably revert to a state of nature."

Now, although we have not realised the abundant prosperity depicted by Mr. Gurney, we have the good fortune to know that we have not witnessed the barbarous results so confidently detailed in the gloomy prognostications of Sir Archibald. But these specimens of conflicting opinions, so characteristic of the discussions upon West Indian affairs, which have for years distracted public attention, cannot now mislead the most humble inquirer into the political, social, and moral condition of Jamaica. We have before us, in facts and figures, a declining agriculture, commercial embarrassments, and a people rich in physical abundance, but steeped in ignorance and moral debasement.

The material prosperity in the condition of the working classes has, however, fallen short of the result which Mr. Gurney and his friends anticipated. That benevolent gentleman has aptly described the elements of that prosperity on which he conceived the well-being of the working classes should depend. Prosperity, he observes, is a word of large meaning,—it embraces the intellectual, moral, and spiritual, as well as the temporal welfare of the people, and before prosperity can be predicated of the working classes it must be seen that all these elements are manifested in their condition.

Now, tried by these tests, the conditions of a sound prosperity are far from being yet fulfilled: we have the physical, but none of the moral and industrial elements.

This unsatisfactory state of society has been discussed by Dr. Brewster in his address, in 1853, to the British Association for the Advancement of Science.

It is, he observes, a problem yet to be solved, to determine what will be the state of society when man's physical powers are highly exalted, and his physical condition highly ameliorated, without any corresponding change in his moral habits and position. There is much reason to fear that every great advance in material civilization requires some moral and compensating antagonism; but however this must be, the very indeterminate character of the problem is a warning to the rulers of nations to prepare for the contingency by a system of national instruction.

The question of education is still prominently before the public. "The case has reduced itself to the simplest form." Education is necessary, and those who have

JAMAICA.

the power to provide for its diffusion are no doubt alive to their responsibility. But education, important as it is, is by no means more important, if indeed so much so, as the moral and industrial regeneration of the adult masses, who, before any good result can be expected from the attempt to diffuse education amongst their children, must themselves be brought under the influence of such incitements as might stimulate them to industry, self-restraint, and civil respectability.

From whence such a stimulus could be derived, or, rather, from what quarter a population could be imported, possessing the industrial virtues required to stimulate our working classes, has engaged the attention of an able writer in the "Westminster Review." In an article entitled "British Philanthropy and Jamaica Distress," he remarks:—"Yet "that there is a want of labour in this magnificent island, to force its rich soil to yield "its rich treasures, there can be no doubt; a want, not of cheap labour (is not labour "cheap enough at a shilling a day?), but of educated skilled labour,—not of mere manual "operatives, but of artisans and tradesmen and yeomen; of immigrants who already "have some little capital, and know how to use it, and have wants which will force "them to accumulate yet more. In a word, the great desideratum of Jamaica is a hard-"working middle class, a class such as could not exist under its old régime, and which, "though now springing up with remarkable quickness, is still far too small. Captured "slaves, or prisoners of war, or Coolie or Kroomen, cannot furnish recruits to this class, "but far more than either Africa or India there are men who can.

"The free coloured people of the United States might supply this desideratum, by "sending men who would carry with them their wives and children, many of them "possessing no inconsiderable amount of capital, many of them trained under the "industrial influence of that energetic example, which their white oppressors, however "much they hate or despise them, cannot withhold from them. We can hardly hope "that these pages will be read by any of the leaders among this people, or we would "earnestly ask them, whether self-interest, and duty to their race, bond and free, does "not suggest to them an exodus from the land of bondage to tropical Jamaica, at least "more strongly than to cold Canada? In the States, their very faculties are a torment "to them, for the prejudice against colour allows their faculties no exercise. In Jamaica, "if in the minds of any men that prejudice still lingers, it is only to be laughed at; "how can it be otherwise when coloured men not only may be, but are, legislators, lawyers, "physicians, ministers, planters, editors, and merchants, as well as labourers? We are "aware we are treading on tender ground, and that some of the best of the coloured "men, and many of their sincerest friends, think, that, in hope of aiding their enslaved "brethren, they ought, under whatever obloquy or persecution, to remain citizens of the "Republic. It is not for us to mark out their course, and yet we cannot but think, "that by no possible means could they so effectually aid the American slave as by "teaching energy and industry to the free British negro, and by hastening forward, by "their precept and example, that time when from Jamaica and her kindred isles the "voice of a negro community, prosperous, educated, civilized, christian, shall speak to "republican despots and their victims words which both will hear, and which the "former will not be able to disregard.

"And that this time will come we hold to be no vain prophecy, foolish as to many it "may seem. We have faith in it, because we see it written on the page of history, in the "experience of the Anglo-Saxon, that he cannot toil in these islands or make a home of "them, and of the African that he can; because we see already foreshadowings of its "fulfilment in the progress which, since his feet have been unshackled, the African has "made,—a progress which, spite of its occasional tarryings or backward steps, is greater "than has ever in like period been made by Anglo-Saxon. And lastly, there needs a "supply of foreign labour, not indeed from Africa or India, nor yet only from America, "but from England; there needs now, and will for many years, a continuous immigra-"tion of English ministers and schoolmasters."

I have made this quotation because attention has been of late forcibly drawn to the introduction of the coloured people from America; but I do not concur in the partial view of this writer, who ignores all schemes of immigration except the one on which he so hopefully expatiates. His allusion to the alleged low price of wages shows that he has adopted "the current talk" against the introduction of any people who have only the simple status of a day labourer, on the ground that the native labourers were and are sufficient, and practically available, to supply all the labour which might be required for the cultivation of the staples of sugar and coffee.

But surely it is undeniable, that, from the abolition of the apprenticeship, all the efforts of the emancipated classes had for their aim and object the possession of land, either as freeholders or tenants, and that the offer of money wages had little or no influence in abating this desire. The history of compulsory manumission which preceded the apprenticeship foreshadowed this result. In no instance did the slaves who obtained their freedom under that system manifest the slightest inclination to remain as agricultural servants on the estates. They looked forward to their manumission as a happy deliverance from the drudgery of their former occupation.

No one can doubt that the example of these manumitted slaves, in the natural and laudable desire to gratify and improve their acquired freedom, was without its influence upon the large mass of the people who were waiting for the great act of emancipation.

Moreover, in the felicity and excitement of freedom, the passion for land assumed a more attractive shape, as an element of political power. The people were stimulated by many external circumstances to participate as quickly as possible in the elective rights from which as slaves they had been debarred, and it thus became the unfortunate peculiarity of the position of the emancipated classes to be governed by feelings and inducements which could and did not fail to place their apparent and tangible interests in opposition to those of their former masters.

There was thus created, in the final severance of compulsory labour from the cultivation of the staples, an impulse from which numerous village settlements gradually arose, forming large communities altogether independent of plantation labour. Now, without continuous labour the deterioration if not the ruin of cane cultivation was inevitable; but any expectation of continuous labour was clearly inconsistent with the change which placed within the reach of the negro more profitable and congenial sources of employment.

In the face, therefore, of a state of things in which labour could only be procured at intervals convenient to the labourer himself, there could be no more fitting remedy for the insecurity impending over agricultural operations than in the introduction of immigrant labourers.

There were undoubtedly many circumstances which induced the labourer to look to other sources for his support than wages. Many of these circumstances might have been avoided, or turned to better account for the furtherance of the interests of the proprietor. Prudence and forbearance might have in many cases reconciled the labourer to continue longer in his original occupation. The exigencies of the moment might probably have been less disastrous; the immediate detriment to cultivation might have been avoided; but every step which the labourer made in the progress of accumulation would be a warning to his employer to provide a substitute for him.

Whatever, therefore, might have been the disasters which have attended the result of the various projects for the importation of immigrant labour, I apprehend that, so long as cane cultivation is to be conducted by capitalists, with whom the whole risk and the whole profit or loss remain with themselves, a supply of labourers under contract terms must always constitute one of the main elements in the success of such enterprises.

Should the enterprise be profitable, the well-being of the immigrant is promoted; should loss ensue, it must not be forgotten that success was reasonably expected, and that the immigrant, however painful the result may be to him, is not the only suffering party. If, then, legislation does not permit any wider facilities for the encouragement of immigration than are consistent with the funds for the purchase of immigrant labour, it does all that may be needful to limit the demand, and to avert the evils of a foreign population being tempted by fictitious inducements to seek employment in this island.

Such are happily the existing enactments on the subject of immigration, and I can only hope that the gleam of more prosperous times which marked the commencement of the present year, will make 1856 conspicuous as the turning point in that long period of agricultural calamity from which all interests have suffered.

That calamity, however, has not been without some compensating influences. Drowning men catch at straws, and I hope it is no disparagement to compare that effort with the exertions which have been exhibited, in our distress, upon those "unconsidered trifles" which, at the Paris Exhibition, have signalized Jamaica as the depository of 683 distinct elements of wealth, which nature has bequeathed as a common legacy to all her inhabitants.

Many years ago a plan for investigating the natural productions of Jamaica was suggested, I believe, by the late Sir H. De la Beche. It was said then, that it had been long a matter of regret among men of science that those productions should be so little known in England; and now that a more earnest and practical spirit is enlisted in these inquiries, it may well be asked what prospect is there that the economic value of the various specimens which have recently attracted so much attention at Paris, can be developed on such a scale as to render them articles of exportable value.

Many of these specimens have already elicited inquiries from enterprising men both in France and England. At what rate can such products be supplied, and in what quantity, are the questions which practical men may be expected to ask, and which I find have been already asked.

But who can undertake to answer the question? Is there any person in any part of the island the most favourable for the production of fibre or wood, who could undertake to say that he could supply the most ordinary commercial demand for these articles?

I fear it cannot be denied that our capabilities are at present limited to the production of specimens only; that we can produce pints of our starches and blocks of our woods, but we are powerless for all practical development of the wealth which these samples indicate, simply from the same cause which has partly contributed to the downfall of many a sugar plantation, namely, the want of available labour.

It ought, therefore, to be an object of the highest importance in a country like this, whose staple productions have been declining for years past, that every effort should be made to introduce into it a class of settlers who may be reasonably expected to devote themselves to those various branches of industry the value and importance of which have been so highly distinguished in the recent competition of our products with the industry of the world; and it is with reference to these resources that every well-wisher to Jamaica

JAMAICA.

will heartily concur with the writer in the "Westminster Review," respecting the advantages to be derived from an emigration of the coloured people of America.

If it be true that they are sober and industrious, steadily advancing in wealth and social improvements, supporting from their own resources charitable and religious institutions, exercising most of the handicraft arts, desirous of education and instruction, and possessing the elements of civil respectability, they could not fail to diffuse over this island the qualities which are so required to improve the condition of our native population, and at the same time remove some of the obstacles and difficulties which at present discourage all enterprise in this island.

In conclusion, I beg to remark that there is no change, that I can perceive, which requires any remarks from me on the subjects of education, the progress of agriculture, and the state of crime in the district of St. Andrew.

I have, &c.
(Signed) D. EWART,
Stipendiary Magistrate.

Hugh W. Austin, Esq.,
Governor's Secretary.

Enclosure 4. in No. 7.

SIR, Custom House, Kingston, May 22, 1856.

IN reply to your letter dated the 21st instant, No. 538, we have the honour to state, that not finding it practicable to make up the tonnage account according to the arrangement in time to accompany the other Returns for the Blue Book for the year ended the 31st December 1855, we have made arrangements with the out-ports for affording the requisite information with those Returns for the year ending the 31st December 1856.

We have, &c.
(Signed) W. G. FREEMAN, Collector.
R. B. BERRY, Comptroller.

Hugh W. Austin, Esq.
Governor's Secretary.

HONDURAS.

HONDURAS.

No. 8.

No. 8.

COPY of a DESPATCH from GOVERNOR Sir HENRY BARKLY to the Right Hon. H. LABOUCHERE, M.P.

(No. 19.)

King's House, Jamaica, April 24, 1856.
Received May 19, 1856.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to forward the Blue Book Returns for the year 1855, accompanied by a report from the Superintendent upon their contents, written with Mr. Stevenson's accustomed ability.

2. His account of the progress made by the Legislature under his auspices in the very necessary task of placing the ancient laws and institutions of the settlement upon a regular and formal basis, is particularly ample and instructive, and indicates the great advantage which the inhabitants have derived from the administration of affairs being placed in the hands of a skilful lawyer, at the moment when the new political constitution was sanctioned by Her Majesty.

3. The commercial position of the settlement meanwhile seems steadily improving, there being a slight increase in the value both of imports and exports over the previous year, and as the latter has now reached something like half a million sterling, whilst the former falls little short of half that amount, British Honduras is certainly by no means the least important of the dependencies of the Crown.

4. Agriculture, too, seems at length about to give on the northern frontier a more permanent character to the occupancy of the soil than it has acquired from the wood cutting, which has hitherto formed the staple industry; and it seems not improbable that that fertile district may produce abundance of tropical products, and attracting population from the neighbouring states,

always suffering from chronic revolution, become at no distant date the most valuable part of the settlement.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY BARKLY.

The Right Hon. H. Labouchere,
&c. &c. &c.

REPORT on the BLUE BOOK of BRITISH HONDURAS for 1855.

"Taxes, Duties, &c."

It became necessary last year to make unusual provision for the erection of the gaol and other buildings which had been destroyed by the fire of August 1854, and for the construction of other works and improvements, which are much required for the public use; and for this purpose, in the absence of any other available tax, a duty of 2½ per cent. was imposed on all imported goods not already subject to specific duty other than that permanently imposed by the Constitution Act.

This duty will continue for three years from the passing of the Act imposing it; and at its commencement (1st March 1855) the one per cent. duty, which had been previously imposed on these imposts for general purposes, ceased. This accounts for the difference in figures under the heads of "Rated" and "Unrated" articles appearing in the

Comparative Statement of Revenue.

In other respects, under this head, there is a great falling off in the import revenue on "sugar" and "spirits and cordials;" in the former to the extent of 661*l.*, and in the latter to the extent of 2,780*l.* less than the previous year's amounts. This is solely attributed to the increased quantity of sugar, rum, and other spirits made in the northern district of the settlement, by the immigrant Spaniards and Indians, who have beeome cultivators and manufacturers there, and whose produce is not now subject to any local duty, so that there is no equivalent for the loss of revenue arising from the proportionately smaller importation of those articles. An attempt was made during the last session to impose a small duty on these local productions; but the Legislature considered it desirable to encourage these new producers, by affording them complete immunity for the present from all contribution towards the revenue.

Referring to the note at page 27 at the end of the table of comparative revenue, it will be seen that the apparent decrease in the aggregate amount still results in a great measure from the altered mode of keeping the books, referred to last year in reference to the credits for revenue; but this will be the last year in which such apparent differences will be observed.

The aggregate of ordinary revenue, which exceeds 20,000*l.*, is, however, more than equal to the ordinary expenditure, and the special revenue will, I hope, prove quite sufficient for the special purposes to which it is to be applied, a new iron bridge, now about to be contracted for, being, to its principal extent, otherwise provided for during the past session.

Legislation.

After the passing of the new Constitution Act (16 Vict. c. 4.), it became necessary to make many corresponding improvements in the laws, the courts, and several other local institutions, all of which had been very irregularly and informally framed and constituted; and this gave rise to many important Acts in the session of 1855 (none having been attempted in 1854, for the reason assigned last year), and such improving Acts have been continued during the session of the present year.

Twenty-two Acts were passed and allowed last year, many of which had these public improvements for their object. And among the Acts of the present year (of which there have been 20 passed) many of them have brought into better operation the Acts of last year, and have continued the constitutional improvements down to the present time.

HONDURAS.

A table of the titles of these Acts will be found at pages 60, 61, and 62 of this Blue Book; but among the Acts of a constitutional character I may particularly notice the following; viz.—

Chapter I. to facilitate the purchase of lands for public improvements where difficulties of title or disabilities of infancy or otherwise exist. A simple and summary method of acquiring legal title for such purposes is given through the medium of a magistrate and jury; while the due appropriation or investment of the purchase money is confided to the court in cases in which infancy or other disability prevents the immediate receipt of the purchase money by the owner of the purchased lands.

Chapter III. to amend the Marriage Act of 1852, which had declared illegal every marriage celebrated out of the town of Belize, and out of particular churches and licensed buildings therein. This Act of 1852 was found to operate very injuriously in the prohibition of marriages beyond the limits of the principal town, and either put the contracting parties to the difficulty and expense of travelling great distances, or (where that was impracticable) promoted, rather than discouraged, concubinage and illegitimacy; but under the new law every facility is afforded to the celebration of marriages in towns and villages in the country, after due publication of intention in the places in which the parties reside; and, where licensed houses or authorized ministers are not within reach, and the distance is too great to resort to Belize, the agency of magistrates is sanctioned, under particular restrictions. But in every case, by whomsoever the rite may be celebrated, regulations are prescribed for the periodical transmissal of certificates for the purpose of registration in the town of marriages celebrated in the country.

Chapter VI. to cheapen and facilitate administrations and probates where the assets are under 50*l*. The former laws on these subjects, and the regulated scale of charges, precluded the due administration of small estates; and, consequently, in remote places in the country, the forms of obtaining legal authority were not observed, the assets in many cases fell into bad hands, and the difficulty and expense of compelling honest accounts, and of exposing and punishing frauds, occasioned great injury to the powerless and the poor. By the new Act a simple application to a magistrate authorizes an order for provisional administration, under security for duly accounting; and, when the proceedings are confirmed by the ordinary, facilities are given for the enforcement of such duties as devolve on the accountable officer, and for the honest performance of his trust; and, when the domicile and the assets are at remote parts of the settlement, the summary authority of magistrates is given in aid of the powers of the ordinary.

Chapter VII. relating to the summary disposal by the magistrate of petty thefts.

Chapter X. improving the constitution of the police and summary courts, and establishing appeals therefrom.

Chapter XVIII. declaratory of the rights and privileges of aliens, and facilitating their naturalization within this settlement. This Act was framed in pursuance of the British Statute, 10 and 11 Vict. c. 83; and so far as appeared applicable to the wants and peculiarities of this country, it followed many of the provisions of the Imperial Act, 7 and 8 Vict. c. 66.

Chapter XIX. to sanction the powers and prerogatives exercised by Her Majesty's Superintendent. In adjusting the constitution and jurisdiction of the "courts," and the declaration of "laws in force," to harmonize with the improved legislative constitution, it became necessary to remove all doubt as to representative power of Her Majesty's Superintendent, which had been of necessity habitually exercised in this settlement in virtue of his office, although those powers had not been directly, but only inferentially, given by the general language of his appointment, and as some questions had been raised with reference to the exercise of the prerogative of pardon in sentences of death passed by the Commission Court, and other doubts might have arisen out of other constitutional changes in the courts and otherwise, it became desirable to set them all at rest by the aid of a legislative enactment assented to by the Crown. The present Act, therefore, so assented to by the Crown, fully authorizes the Superintendent or other administrator of the Government, whatever may be his designation, to exercise the prerogative of mercy, reprieve, and pardon, in respect of all crimes and offences whatsoever, and also to use

and exercise all other powers and prerogatives hitherto exercised by Superintendents, with the knowledge of the Government, and required for the executive authority of Her Majesty's representative within this settlement, as fully as if the same were specifically authorized by Royal Commission and Instructions, or those of Her Majesty's Principal Secretary of State, as well as by the Governor of Jamaica, so long as this settlement remains a dependency of that island.

* * * * *

Chapter XXI. This "Act to improve the Constitution, and to enlarge the "Jurisdiction of the Supreme Court, and establish Appeals therefrom," had long been required in this country. The earlier settlers had established sufficiently good tribunals of justice for their own limited wants, and, administering the local laws by means of a self-constituted magistracy alone, the alterations that were from time to time effected may have been enough for all their local requirements; but in process of time, when institutions were improved, and social arrangements originated new subjects of litigation, and when, twelve years ago, a legal judge was sent here and new laws were introduced, and forms required which had previously been wholly unknown, the earlier practice and arrangements of the courts proved inadequate to the wants of the country, and a well-defined jurisdiction of the superior criminal and civil courts, as well as of the inferior magisterial tribunals, became absolutely necessary. This is the principal of a series of Acts on the subject of these improvements, and it gives a well-defined and complete jurisdiction to the Supreme Court, on its criminal and civil sides, as well as a sufficient jurisdiction in equity, insolvency, and (to a limited extent) in respect of probate and administrations also. As there can be no local court of appeal, it facilitates appeals, as much as they can be facilitated, to the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council, by requiring the judge, within a given time, to furnish a full note of the question at issue and the point of appeal, and a copy of the evidence relating thereto, and also to state the precise direction given or refused, and the reasons of his judgment or direction, and any authorities in support thereof, and to sign and transmit the whole to the appellate court; and in the meantime there is given to the judge an opportunity of correcting a hasty judgment upon motion for new trial, &c. If carefully worked out, this Act will form an excellent basis for any improvement that may be from time to time thought necessary, and in the meantime it is sufficient for every immediate purpose. The great difficulty in dealing with this, or any other Act relating to the administration of justice, is the absence of a bar and properly authorized practitioners, and the scarcity of persons of position possessing sufficient leisure to give their gratuitous assistance to the duties of the courts, while at the same time there is a continuing reluctance to an educated lawyer occupying the sole judicial seat, without the slightest check or local control over his judgments. On all sides there are difficulties, which, however, a prudent and cautious judge ought soon to remove, when bringing the Act into healthy operation.

And Chapter XXII. "declaratory of the Laws in force in this Settlement." The greatest doubt and confusion appeared to prevail with respect to the state of the laws, both local and English. The former had to a great extent been disregarded, when they had not been regularly and continuously acted on; and many of them were so informal in their origin as to be almost untraceable; and the courts appeared to use or reject English laws almost at discretion, according to circumstances. Still there were many of the old ordinances and regulations that were well adapted to the continuing state of society, and required only careful amendment in some respects; while others, apparently still subsisting, were useless or mischievous, and only tended to mislead. It required, therefore, a first step towards these improvements, in the shape of a declaratory law; and the present Act is one of that description.

Firstly. It gives permanently to the earlier rules relating to the courts and their practice, which were still in use, subject to future alterations by the courts themselves.

Secondly. It confirms general and municipal regulations still unrevoked, and acted on to the present time, subject to future legislative changes.

Thirdly. It recognizes all resolutions relating to logwood and mahogany works and allotments of land, in so far as they establish ownerships and possessions, and regulate boundaries.

HONDURAS.

Fourthly. It protects all present possessions under old locations, where they have continued undisturbed for a given time; saving the rights of infants and persons under disability.

And, *lastly*, it declares, in general terms, what part of the common law and of the criminal and other statute laws of England are in force here, as being applicable thereto, and not in conflict with local laws in use.

With the foundation of this declaratory law, it only remained, first, to consolidate and reproduce all old and unpublished laws coming within the local sections of this Act, and afterwards, at leisure, to amend and improve them; but the first seemed to be a difficult undertaking here, as the minutes showed that, time after time, the attention of the Legislature had been directed to that object, and committee after committee had been appointed for that purpose, but the work had always been abandoned as one of hopeless difficulty. However, it was a necessary one, particularly in connection with the present law. So, finding no one else to do it, I thought it best to undertake it myself, and in the course of last year I prepared a complete consolidation of all these local ordinances and regulations, reproducing them fully, and at this last session laid them before the Legislature, with a recommendation that they should appoint a committee to examine them (if they desired to do so) with the records, and print and circulate them for general information, preparatory to any future amendments and repeals that may be necessary; and no doubt many will be required.

This committee has since been formed, and probably before the next session their duty, which is now little more than mechanical, will have been performed; but the completion of the work now rests with themselves.

Civil Establishment.

Some of the difficulties I pointed out in last year's Report are now in progress of removal. The Legislature has appointed a committee to inquire into the duties of certain public officers who undertake the simultaneous performance of plural and incongruous offices; and probably the next session may produce a change in this respect.

In the meantime, assistance is given to the Colonial Secretary in the performance of his secondary duties relating to the customs and check of the revenue, and the recently appointed Attorney General has commenced his official duties, and will henceforth relieve the executive of the assumed duties of preparing legislative measures to carry out contemplated improvements in the settlement.

In other respects the civil establishment appears sufficient for the wants of the settlement.

In the Ecclesiastical Establishment.

There is a deficiency, which, without some change or foreign assistance, it is difficult to supply. It is true we have a chaplain to the settlement, who is also incumbent of the principal church of St. John's, and there is also the incumbent of St. Mary's, who officiates also as garrison chaplain; but in a population like this there is much to be done that partakes more of the character of missionary labour than of that which is confined for the most part to services in the churches. The two districts of St. John and St. Mary may not be very populous, —probably the average stationary population may not exceed 4,000 or 5,000,— although the general belief is that when the town is tolerably full the number of persons must exceed 7,000; the town, however, is a very scattered one; and there are, I believe, hundreds of persons in the poorer sections (as indeed there are in the richer also) who never enter a church or hear the voice of ministry, unless it proceed from the Wesleyan, Roman Catholic, or Baptist, whose ministers profess more of the missionary habit than our churchmen at all profess. These poorer people require the zealous and untiring persuasion of missionary teachers, who would visit their own houses, teach them the plain and simple truths of the Gospel, and draw them by degrees into evangelical light; and much sedulous teaching is required in the gaols, hospitals, and other places, in which a mere occasional service makes no more impression than the formal visit of any indifferent officer of the institution. And a careful

organization of lay readers and of district visitors in both divisions of the town would be very desirable.

* * * * *

I have succeeded during the past session in securing provision for a missionary and schoolmaster for the northern district of the settlement, and have communicated the result to the Secretary of State, who had, upon my first suggestion, laid the spiritual wants of that district before a missionary society; but the wants are urban as well as rural, and this place seems to me to be peculiarly adapted to missionary labours.

If the Church Missionary or any other society could aid in the service of religion in our section of the Church, by sending one or two persevering and zealous men, accustomed to the work of towns, for the performance of missionary labours and teaching in this town, great good might soon be effected in the moral improvement of the people.

The incumbent of St. Mary's is also permitted to hold the independent chaplaincy to the garrison. In performance of the ordinary services of the Church, both in the district of St. Mary and in the garrison, there would, I apprehend, be no difficulty in the same officiating minister's engaging in the performance of both duties; but if, in addition to those services, there are likewise superadded those still more important duties of spiritually serving the hospital, the paupers, and the sick, and of visiting and teaching the poor, and attending to the schools, and also that of performing the same functions of teaching among the military and their children, it may require more activity and energy than any other than a young, zealous, and devoted minister can properly supply.

* * * * * *

Education.

The struggles that have lately been made to advance the improvement of the schools are now, I hope, beginning to produce their good effects; and an Act of the last Legislature, coupled with some financial means contributed, will produce three very desirable objects:—one is a concentration of all the Church and infant schools in a convenient and accessible part of the town, at which the children may more easily attend, and the board more constantly overlook the progress of the schools; a second is the improved salaries of the teachers, in order to facilitate the engagement of superior trained and certificated persons, who will also devote much attention to industrial teaching; and a third is the inspection by the head master over the other schools under the same establishment, in order to promote the same system of discipline and instruction in the principal public schools; while the Congregational schools, which are also very favourably supported by the settlement, are left to their own system and discipline, under a slight but sufficient check. Some sudden changes which took place last year in some of the teachers of these schools threw them back considerably; but as the new arrangements for engagement of better qualified instructors have already been put in train, and the new and spacious central schools have been commenced, it is hoped there may soon be such results as may mark the good effect of changes which have been so anxiously pressed. In the Saint Mary's School a Sunday school was established by the late incumbent, but was discontinued, after the arrival of his temporary successor; but in the principal schools of St. John (being the large free schools of the settlement) the pupils have been left to such religious instruction as could be imparted to them during the week alone; and attempts to introduce a Sunday school, either by the instrumentality of the incumbent or of the teachers, have hitherto proved abortive; but now it is hoped to be accomplished by the voluntary assistance of private persons; and, on the arrival of new teachers, it is possible that the system may become more perfect and regular.

The tables will show the continuing liberality of the settlement towards educational purposes, in extending support to all sectional and Congregational schools, where conscientious scruples prevent the use of those of the Established Church; and this perhaps may render it more important that the religious education of the pupils in the schools of our Church, which might otherwise

HONDURAS.

have been left more to private or parental care, should be the more zealously inculcated. It would also prevent the unpleasing contrast of the result of superior zeal in the Congregational schools.

Imports and Exports.

The table of exports must not be regarded as an indication of the productive resources of the country, as it contains many items of merchandise which merely pass through this settlement for shipment elsewhere, and ought to be entered as mere transit goods, as, for instance, cigars, cochineal, indigo, sarsaparilla, and other items of smaller note; and the export trade would be greatly assisted if there were any convenient arrangement for warehousing such goods and others in bond. I have strongly recommended the introduction of that system; but it is mistakenly supposed that it will seriously affect the revenues, which at present are principally derived from imports, although, whatever may be the effect for the first year or two, I am sure that the counterbalancing advantage in many other respects would soon improve the commercial condition of the country, and at the same time, in all probability, prove a permanent advantage rather than a detriment to the customs revenues.

Shipping.

The tables of the year show the entry of 61 British vessels, measuring 19,964 tons, and employing 703 men; three vessels of British possessions, measuring 82 tons, and employing 14 men; 43 of the United States, measuring 6,801 tons, and employing 290 men; and nine other foreign vessels, measuring 793 tons, and employing 55 men; being in the aggregate the employment of 116 vessels, 27,640 tons, and 1,062 men. And the same tables show a clearance of 123 vessels, measuring 31,692 tons, and employing 1,206 men, during the year 1855. The registration of these vessels has, since the middle of last year, been in conformity with the "Merchant Shipping Act, 1854." Previously to that period there never had been any registration of ships in this settlement otherwise than in conformity with certain regulations relating to coasting vessels.

Agriculture and Manufactures.

There are none that really deserve the name. The country has always been devoted to the pursuit of the great staples of logwood and mahogany, and no other description of agriculture has been attempted than that which has been used for the partial support of the wood cutters and others, and confined to the commonest and coarsest products; while manufactures have never been thought of. Attempts have indeed been made to cultivate the sugar cane in some favourable places; but the attempts, so far as I can learn, have been unsuccessful or unremunerative, when made on a large scale. But within the last few years the cultivation of the cane has been attempted by the recent Spanish and Indian settlers in the northern district, who, by their own rough means, have succeeded very fairly in establishing small but rather profitable plantations near Corosal, and on the margins of the principal rivers in that district. And although in no one place is there a large field of cultivation or anything like scientific agriculture or manufacture, yet the result has shown, as the tables prove, a pressure on the revenue on spirits and sugar, the aggregate amount produced and sent in small quantities from time to time to Belize being very considerable. In consequence of this experimental cultivation being in its infancy, the Legislature have been reluctant to attempt the imposition of any duty on these manufactured articles; and as it is important to encourage that description of immigration and cultivation, and it has hitherto proved as beneficial to the mahogany cutters as to the immigrants and cultivators themselves, it is hoped that the increasing prosperity of these new people, and the safety in which they are taught to regard their persons and property, within the protected limits of British territory and British laws, will induce others to follow their example of immigration, and scatter themselves throughout the settlement, where they will, I believe, be everywhere welcome.

The destruction of the gaol in 1854 rendered it necessary to remove all the prisoners into some place of sufficient accommodation. A large police station was at first used for some, and an almost unoccupied lunatic asylum was partly used for others; but by changes that have since been made the whole body of prisoners have since been sufficiently lodged in the former lunatic asylum, while the inmates of the latter have been removed to a contiguous newly purchased building; and the few paupers that are housed (not being on out-door pensions) were placed in a building within the gaol premises which had been prepared for their reception. All this temporary accommodation was improved towards the end of the year, and the whole has been made as convenient as circumstances permitted.

In the meantime a large and commodious new gaol is in progress of erection on an entirely new site; and it was at first arranged to devote one wing to the asylum for lunatics, with their separate yard, keeper, and attendants, and a portion of the other wing to the paupers, with separate arrangements for them; but as the whole building may probably be required for different classes of prisoners it is now determined to lodge the lunatics and the paupers in two separate buildings.

Of the lunatics there have hitherto been none admitted who have not been either criminal or pauper lunatics, requiring more the careful custody of watchful servants (aided by the superintending care of a medical officer) than the mental discipline of an asylum for the reception of inmates of a different character and condition; but some prospective changes now in contemplation may by and bye introduce a larger schéme of accommodation for lunatics of all classes and conditions, and a different treatment than that which has hitherto been available.

Of the inmates of the almshouse there have always been few, nearly all the paupers being out-door pensioners, who are confided to the care of their own relatives and friends, and of whom the numbers are given at p. 184. But where, as in the instance of some half-dozen old people who are now in this small institution, they have no friends or relatives, or are too old and infirm to be trusted to indifferent persons, they are housed, fed, and attended to in a house now temporarily substituted for that which was burnt in 1854, from which they will be removed to a better when built.

At present the constant attendance of one person is found enough, with the frequent visits and supervision of the gaoler and his wife, who now provide the food, and, during the temporary arrangements within the gaol premises, are required to perform these duties.

The hospital is a good institution, and of great value to seamen, who are the principal inmates; but destitute and houseless sick, and persons suffering from sudden and severe accident, are likewise entitled to admission; and it is sufficiently supported for all the purposes for which it is required.

Arrangements are about to be made, under a recent Act of the Legislature, for gaol accommodation for a certain class of prisoners for minor offences within the northern district of the settlement, where their short sentences of imprisonment do not justify the delay and expense of removal to the common gaol of Belize.

I have, &c.

(Signed) WILLIAM STEVENSON,
H. M. Superintendent.

Government House, Belize,
April 5, 1856.

BAHAMAS.

No. 9.

No. 9.

EXTRACT of DESPATCH from Governor Sir A. BANNERMAN to the Right Hon. Sir H. LABOUCHERE, dated Government House, Nassau, November 11, 1856. No. 64. (Received 18 Dec. 1856.)

"I HAVE the honour to send herewith the Blue Book for 1855, which should have been forwarded before this time, but much delay took place from the absence of returns from some of the islands.

"I have forwarded along with the Book some interesting reports from Mr. Harvey, the Out-Island Engineer."

REPORT on Blue Book for 1855.

THE revenue for the year 1855 exceeded the revenue in 1854 by 3,103*l.* 12*s.* 8*d.*; the revenue for 1854 being 25,966*l.* 0*s.* 8*d.*, and for 1855 29,069*l.* 13*s.* 4*d.* This increase is partially owing to the operation of the New Tariff, 17 Vict. c. 2, and to the increased quantity of merchandise introduced into the colony from "wrecks," subject to the ad valorem and auction duty under the said Act.

The expenditure for 1855 also exceeded that for 1854 by 885*l.* 4*s.* 2*d*; the expenditure in 1854 having been 26,259*l.*, while that in 1855 was 27,144*l.* 5*s.*

By the decease of the Receiver-General some saving has been effected under the provision of the Act (14 Vict. c. 15.) "for prospectively reducing the fixed expenditure of the Colony." This retrenchment is necessarily limited to certain departments, as the necessities of the colony have required, and will from time to time require the general expenditure of the colony to be increased, as has already occurred since the passing of the above Act, in increased remuneration to the various revenual officers at the outports, the establishing police stipendiary magistrates at Harbour Island and Abaco, and a stipendiary Out-Island Civil Engineer and Assistant Surveyor.

Nassau Library.

By a report laid before the House the number of volumes in the Nassau Library were 2,600.

Education.

By the report of the Board of Education, laid before the House of Assembly, there are 26 schools in active operation under that board, employing 40 teachers, at an annual cost of 1,331*l.* The board report an increase in the number of pupils on the books of the said schools over the preceding year, though, from the causes stated in the report, the average attendance of the pupils has been less. The board, however, report, that the schools generally maintain their efficiency in all the departments, and that the additional grant of 300*l.* per annum voted by the Bahama Legislature in aid of public schools has enabled the board to increase the salaries of many of their teachers, and to improve the school accommodation, which is still far from adequate to the wants of the populations of the various scattered islands of which this colony is composed, though the legislative educational grants in this colony, in point of liberality, may be favourably contrasted with other more populous places and with greater revenual means.

Civil Engineer for Out-Islands.

The reports of the Out-Island Civil Engineer, laid before the Assembly, are full of interesting and valuable information. In one of them he states, "Large quantities of valuable timber grow on Abaco; forests of pitch pine

" run nearly the whole extent of the island, and dog wood, madeira, horse " flesh, button wood, iron wood (black and white), and cedar, are found in " abundance.

" The malso tree is also growing in many parts of Abaco, and on some " of the neighbouring cays it grows in swampy places, and the inner bark " makes an excellent and strong rope, that is found to last a long time under " water."

In the same report he states that, " Many plants growing in the Bahamas " are suited to the production of fibre for paper and other manufactures; " that the Manilla plant is being cultivated at Abaco, and is found to grow " very luxuriantly."

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" Tons of these various fibres might be exported annually from the Bahamas. " If there was a manufactory for the making of it, abundance might even now " be supplied from different parts of the Bahamas;" and " many would enter " into the cultivation of fibrous plants, were they assured of means of disposing " of the produce which a central depôt at New Providence would afford " them."

Inagua.

In his report this officer says, " Among the public works peculiarly needed " on this island, I must not omit to mention a lighthouse or lightstaff on the " south-east point. Mathew Town is situated on the south-west shore, and " the anchorage opposite being exposed, vessels cannot remain there during " westerly gales, but must round the point I allude to, to obtain the shelter " afforded on the south-east, where a reef extends for some distance, and on " which wrecks frequently occur; two vessels were run even aground on this " spot about a month ago. A light on this point would answer the double " purpose of security against the reef, and a guide for those who might be " compelled to shift their anchorage during darkness."

There are many more vessels unconnected with the Bahamas to whom the proposed light would be of advantage than vessels belonging to or trading with the Bahamas, and consequently any dues which might be authorized under the Act of Parliament, 18 & 19 Vict. c. 1, for facilitating the erection and maintenance of colonial lighthouses, would be very unequally levied, and would be totally inadequate to the object in view.

In the 16th paragraph of the Report of the Out-Island Civil Engineer he states further of Inagua, that " Man-of-War Bay, as its name denotes, is " capable of floating large ships, the water being deep enough in some parts " close to the rocky shore for vessels of a large size to come up;" and adds, " that it would be so perfectly feasible to construct a large shipping dock " within this bay, for the protection and repair of steamers and other vessels, " that I cannot refrain from just mentioning the possibility of Inagua possess- " ing, at some future day, as its prosperity increases, a public work of much " importance to the colony, and one that would so convincingly prove the " value of its geographical position."

The total value of merchandise directly and indirectly imported in the year 1855 exceeded that in the year 1854 by 60,756*l.*; the value in the year 1854 being 131,995*l.*, and in the year 1855, 192,751*l.*

The exports also in 1855 exceeded those of 1854 by 42,168*l.*; the value in 1854 being 69,502*l.*, and in 1855 being 111,670*l.* This may be attributable chiefly to the exportation of foreign cargoes wrecked within the colony. Thus, cotton, which was formerly grown in great quantities in the colony, and now sometimes appears among Bahama exports, is generally foreign cotton stranded on the Bahamas en route to England from New Orleans. The exports of articles belonging to the colony consist principally of salt, fruit, sponge, shells, hard wood, dye-wood, and barks.

There were 23 vessels built in the colony in 1855, of, together, 792 tons burthen.

The total number of vessels that cleared at ports of entry within the colony in 1855 were 345, of the burthen of 29,160 tons, and crews of 2,299 persons.

The value of Bahama produce exported in the year 1855 is estimated at 50,093*l.*, being 10,366*l.* over the value exported in 1854, the value in the latter year having been estimated at 39,727*l.*

BAHAMAS.

The increase occurs principally in the amount of salt and fruit exported.

The quantity of salt raked in the various cultivated salinas of the Bahamas varies considerably, as the pans without covering are liable to be inundated by heavy tropical showers that weaken the pickle, and delay for weeks, and sometimes months, the raking of salt from such pans.

It is the opinion of some experienced persons that such uncertainty might be very much obviated by roofing in pans in the Salina with glass, and by simultaneously improved drainage. The expense has, however, hitherto deterred the experiment being tested by individual leaseholders of salt pans; and it has been suggested that such experiment should be tested by the Government, from local Crown revenue applicable to colonial purposes.

If such experiment were successful, a vast increase in the annual quantity of salt made would result; and the coarse grained salt of the Bahamas is very much in demand in the United States for the curing of salt provisions for exportation, American, Liverpool, and some other salt, not being of sufficient strength alone for this purpose.

The plantations of pine apples and oranges have increased and are increasing; hence the additional quantity of fruit exported in the year 1855 over that of 1854.

A. BANNERMAN,
Governor.

C. R. Nesbitt, Colonial Secretary.

Encl. in No. 9.

Enclosure in No. 9.

Out-Island Civil Engineer's Office,
Nassau, N. P., October 5, 1855.

SIR,

AGREEABLY to your Excellency's instructions, that I should examine Athol Island, with a view to its being converted into a quarantine station, for which purpose your Excellency has lately purchased it, and report upon all connected therewith, I have proved the survey, and examined the situation and taken a few soundings, and I beg to state that it appears to be a peculiarly desirable locality for such a purpose as your Excellency has in contemplation. The island being dry, free from swamps (for the two or three spots that from their low situation appear likely to be swampy at some seasons of the year might be easily drained), and rising in one part to a height of 30 feet above the level of the sea, would naturally lead to the conclusion that it must be a healthy situation, which opinion is confirmed by the testimony of those who have inhabited the island for the last twelve years, and who consider it to be remarkably healthy. The soil is well adapted for raising fruit trees, of which there at present number about 300 of different kinds, oranges, pears, sugar apples, and in fact a specimen of almost every tropical fruit, as well as various vegetables. It has also the advantage of wells of excellent water.

The spot that I would recommend as the site for the proposed hospital is nearly the highest point of land on the island, about half a mile from the west end. Not very distant from this point is a well of excellent water, and another might be dug just at the foot of the hill.

There is a projecting rock at the south-eastern side of the island, which would be admirably adapted for a wharf and coaling station. In a direct line in front of this rock the soundings were 9, 13, 16 feet, and along the southern side towards the west they gave 12, 12, 11 and 10 feet, whilst from the point I allude to as good for a wharf, towards Cochrane's Anchorage, distant three and a half miles to the east-south-east, the soundings were 16, 14, 18, 17, 22 feet, &c. There is good anchorage within two miles of this east end of the island. Her Majesty's ship "Barham," drawing 20 feet 4 inches, anchored here in 1829, and rode out a very severe south-west gale without receiving any injury.

A large accumulation of sand attracted my attention opposite the Narrows, between the end of Hog Island and Athol Island, and induced me to investigate the various currents that run with considerable force through the passages amongst these islands, and the rocks and cays around; and I discovered what I suspected to be the fact, that during the northerly gales these conflicting currents cause this deposit of sand to the south of these Narrows, through which by far the greatest quantity of sand is driven, and which eventually must work down and injure the valuable harbour of Nassau. Could the various currents which now cause eddies and sand bores be brought to run through one channel, its volume of water, unimpeded by contrary currents, would by its own force deepen the present channel across this deposit of sand; and it appears to me that this object might be attained without difficulty by throwing a barrier across from Hog Island to Athol Island, for which purpose there is abundance of material close at hand; and this once done, the sand, instead of driving through the Narrows, and accumulating on the bar of sand to the south, would be arrested on the northern side, and soon form a beach that would effectually

and permanently fill up the passage, and the whole distance from the west point of Hog Island to the east point of Athol Island would be protected, and might be preserved free from all obstructions by the constant use of a dredging machine, which must before long be employed for the widening, &c. of the channels in the harbour.

Deepening the bar at the western entrance, filling up the Narrows at the east end, and the constant use of a good dredging machine, appears to me all that is requisite to make a most excellent harbour for Nassau.

Should these improvements be carried into effect, a lighthouse will be required at the eastern entrance of the harbour, and I have marked an excellent site for one on the plan accompanying this report.

I have, &c.

His Excellency Sir A. Bannerman, &c. &c. &c. (Signed) Thomas C. Harvey, C. E.

I have also to state there is a good channel from Salt Cay Anchorage, which lies three quarters of a mile N.W. of the western end of Athol Island, to the anchorage of Hanover Sound, half a mile to the N.E. of the centre of Athol Island, and that from thence the channel to Cochrane's Anchorage passes the eastern extremity of Athol Island.

T. C H.

The Governor herewith sends to the House of Assembly two reports made out by the Out-Island Civil Engineer in the months of July and December respectively in the past year.

(Signed) A. Bannerman,
Governor.

Government House, Nassau,
11th February, 1856.

Sir, Nassau, July 11th, 1856.

I have the honour to send you, for the information of his Excellency the Governor, my report of the present state of the public works on the out-islands, with such other information as my instructions required me to obtain.

2. The prosperity of Inagua depending entirely on the great natural advantage that it possesses in its superior Salina (which extends for miles, and from which industry can, at a comparatively trifling outlay of time and labour, extract a remuneration hardly to be credited by those unacquainted with the value of such a salt pond as exists on this island), it is self-evident that all public works commenced under the present circumstances should have for their primary object the development of the resources of this mine of wealth, and the rendering its produce available to the greatest possible extent. Keeping this object in view, I have investigated the present state of the works on the island, and have endeavoured to discover from those most conversant with its affairs what are the greatest difficulties that the salt proprietors have to contend with, and how far those difficulties may be met, or in any measure overcome, by the adaptation of the public works to their relief.

3. The most pressing difficulties appear to be:—

The want of an easy and expeditious mode of conveyance for the staple commodity from the salt pond to Mathew Town;

The want of shelter for the salt whilst remaining there awaiting shipment; and,

The unsafe and precarious embarkation of the salt on board, often through a heavy surf to the exposed anchorage where the vessels lie.

4. I beg to lay before his Excellency a plan for a boat dock, salt houses, and railroad, that I believe would completely obviate these difficulties, and enable the whole Salina in due time to be cultivated without any local drawbacks; and I have the great satisfaction, in presenting these suggestions to the consideration of the Governor, of knowing that the most influential proprietors on the island perfectly agree in opinion with me, and see nothing of a chimerical character in the undertaking I would propose.

5. At the north extremity of Mathew Town there exists a small bay, inland of which a dock might be constructed, where vessels drawing eight feet of water could remain in perfect security, and be loaded without the slightest risk, and at very small cost of labour. As the rock is being excavated for the formation of the dock, I would advise that it be used for the commencement of a breakwater at the south-west point of the bay, a spot where such a work may be hereafter most advantageously completed. On the sides of this dock I would suggest that the sheds for the warehousing of salt (so much desired by the proprietors, but objected to when proposed to be built in front of the town) should be erected, as the most convenient situation, being close to the place of embarkation; and for the transportation of the salt to these warehouses I would propose a railroad in a direct line from the pond, one end to pass through the salt houses, and the other to branch off around the pond as the cultivation of the Salina is extended. Connected with this plan, I would recommend near the salt houses that large reservoirs should be made, partly excavated in the rock, to receive the rain water, which might be collected in great quantities from the roofs, which should be built with this object, and furnished with proper gutters for the purpose. If the water from these tanks were sold for a trifling sum, it would contribute essentially to the comfort of the inhabitants of the town and neighbourhood, and this supply of pure water would not only obviate the distress often felt in dry

BAHAMAS.

weather, when the wells now trusted to are almost empty, but would prevent disease, which the sadly impure state of the water they are now compelled to use is so liable to produce.

6. Of the works already in operation at the salt pond, the dams, built to prevent the inundation of the fresh water, require repair, the recent continued rains having swelled the water to the north of the dams to a height that has injured them, and overflowed the adjacent keys; and if this is not remedied great damage may hereafter result to the cultivated pond below. I would recommend, to obviate this danger, that the dams be re-constructed, and carried up one foot higher, and continued over the keys, and to protect that portion of the Salina, north of the present dams, now commencing to be purchased, and brought under cultivation, I would advise that a new dam be made across the Salina, half way between Craig's Canal flood gates and the southern dams. Before long another canal to the sea will become necessary, and if it be constructed on the south side of the proposed northern dam, it could be made to fill a large space between the dams, as a reservoir for pickle to supply the pans around as they became enclosed. This canal, if properly constructed, might also be made to furnish pickle for the whole of the remaining uncultivated Salina.

7. The road from the Rocky Cay to the main road or east avenue, which is set out but not commenced, is much called for, the ground on each side being under cultivation, and the proprietors without a road for the conveyance of their salt from the deposits. The roads generally require much repair; the east avenue particularly should not be allowed to remain in its present unfinished state. A bridge is in course of construction on the east avenue, for which I have furnished a plan and specification, at the request of the Salt Pond Commissioners, made to me through the Crown Commissioner.

8. Closely connected with the success of the working of the Salt Pond is the subject of labour, the deficiency of which, in Inagua, obliges the proprietors to go to a great expense to procure labourers from Nassau and other places, who remain in the island only long enough to complete their agreements, and having no inducement to settle return to spend their earnings elsewhere; a species of absenteeism very injurious to the interests of the island. I would humbly suggest, that if small grants of land, one quarter of an acre or even less, were given to such as felt disposed to settle, it would give them a motive for remaining, and a local interest for the future, and their spare time, when the ponds are not worked, would be most usefully and profitably employed in cultivating the small plots of ground around their cottages.

9. The inhabitants of Mathew Town are very desirous to have a wharf near the centre of the town for the landing of passengers, &c., and I would recommend the point between Jib and Commissioners Bays as the best suited for the purpose, as it offers great natural facilities. The space leading to this point would be an excellent spot for a market house.

10. Among the public works peculiarly needed on this island I must not omit to mention a lighthouse or light-staff upon the south-east point. Mathew Town is situated on the south-west shore, and the anchorage opposite being exposed, vessels cannot remain there during westerly gales, but must round the point I allude to to obtain the shelter afforded on the south-east, where a reef extends for some distance, and on which wrecks frequently occur; two vessels were run aground on this spot about a month ago. A light on this point would answer the double purpose of security against this reef and as a guide for those who might be compelled to shift their anchorage during darkness.

11. I have received communications from the Crown Commissioner requesting my attention to the state of the prison, to the deficiency of water, and as to the best site for the erection of a sun dial. In consequence I have visited and inspected the prison, but find it so unfit in every way for its object that I can only recommend that another be built of stone, and in a more suitable situation. The present building is without ventilation; no separate cells for female prisoners, and no security against escape for any; and being situated in the principal street, it has become quite a public nuisance. The only remedy for the deficieny of water that appears at present to be feasible is to construct a sufficient number of tanks and reservoirs for the preservation of rain-water in a pure state; and I would recommend that all the public buildings should have such attached to them, to insure a good supply; and if all the possessors of houses would follow the example being now set by several of the principal residents, of building tanks to receive the water from the roofs of their dwellings, the present distress would be alleviated. I have before mentioned that the distance of the Horse-pond Wells from Mathew Town, and the necessarily impure state of the water found there, render them inadequate and unfit as a supply to be depended on. If they afforded a sufficient quantity of pure water, pipes might be laid down to convey it to Mathew Town, but the expense would be considerable, and reservoirs in the town promise a more efficient dependence; but the Horse-pond should be cleansed and walled in, that the water may be preserved as pure as possible.

12. The church requires only the internal fittings-up, expected shortly to arrive from New York, to be made ready for divine service, which is at present performed in the school-house; but the grounds to both require enclosing. Adjacent to these are several reserved lots, which I might perhaps be allowed to remark would be admirably adapted to the purpose, from their situation, should it be determined to build a larger Government House for the residence of the Crown Commissioner, and for a parsonage,

should the original intention of appropriating one to that purpose be carried out. The present residence of the Crown Commissioner being close to the shore, might be advantageously converted into a Custom House and residence for the Receiver of Customs.

13. Although, as I have said, the present circumstances of Inagua require that the staple commodity of the place should be the paramount and more immediate object in every undertaking, still it is by no means the only resource of this favoured island, for when it is taken into consideration that it is situated in a latitude where the most luxuriant vegetation in the world is to be found, and that it possesses large tracts of rich prairie ground, and more hilly country towards the east, where miles of the best possible land for agricultural pursuits is found (and to which the proposed railroad would approach within two miles), and that close at hand there are two such good fertilizers of land as lime and salt, it becomes clearly evident that it only needs a population who would take advantage of its resources to render it a very garden for productiveness. Amongst the resources of Inagua ought to be mentioned the cattle, horses, pigs, and goats that at present roam wild, and are little sought after, over the Savanna that occupies the centre of the island, and which might be with very little trouble caught for food or labour. I have visited the Savanna, and saw about twenty head of cattle which had been turned out there to graze, and they were in excellent condition; and I have been assured that better beef can no where be met with than that produced wild in this country. I believe, judging from what I observed, there could be no exaggeration in saying that fifty thousand head of cattle might be pastured on the grass covering this extensive tract of land, and if leased it would find ready tenants, and yield a good revenue to Government.

14. There are also some valuable woods found on the island, some of which has been sold for forty dollars a ton.

15. I have visited Man-of-War's Bay, and walked from thence to the Savanna, and find that if a barrier to prevent the incursions of the wild cattle were erected at this part, it might be carried in a straight line from Man-of-War's Bay to Lake Rosa, a distance of about three miles, and that it would enclose about three miles by four miles in extent of prairie ground, covered at present with grass a foot high. This would afford ample pasturage for at least five thousand head of cattle, besides sheep, &c. On the Savanna there are many ridges and clumps of trees, and making use of these, a worm fence may easily be constructed; or, if a stone wall were more desirable, there are many spots in the direct route covered with stone which might be used for the purpose. The advantage of this land, so protected, to the well-being of Inagua, is incalculable, for cattle might be turned out there in perfect safety; and I noticed several large natural reservoirs on the rock full of rain water, which would ensure a supply for the cattle. At present food is very dear and often scarce, but with such pasturage as this wall would secure there need never be any scarcity of animal food; and perhaps it may be worth the attention of Government, whether a settlement located in this part of the island would not greatly tend to the developing of the resources of Inagua, the settlers to look after the cattle and cultivate the ground, and living themselves independent of the salt ponds, provide a regular supply for the market of Mathew Town, of beef, fruit, vegetables, corn, &c.

16. Man-of-War's Bay, as its name denotes, is capable of floating large ships, the water being deep enough in some parts close to the rocky shore for vessels of a large size to come up. It may be premature even to hint at such an idea, but it would be so perfectly feasible to construct a large shipping dock within this bay, for the protection and repair of steamers and other vessels, that I cannot refrain from just mentioning the possibility of Inagua possessing, at some future day, as its prosperity increases, a public work of such importance to the colony, and one that would so convincingly prove the value of its geographical position.

Fortune Island, or Long Cay.

17. The public works on this island requiring more immediate attention are:—the prison, the site for which has been chosen at such an inconvenient distance from Albert's Town that I have not advertised for tenders, in the hope that, if possible, it may be changed to a situation of greater security. The spot at present fixed on is at some distance beyond the side of the pond opposite to the town, and they say it will be difficult to convey prisoners to such a distance, and insecure for the gaoler, on account of the loneliness of the place. The more desirable situation would be near the present lock-up house, between the pond and sea.

18. *The Salt Ponds.*—At Albert's Town Pond the canal requires repair, and the walls of the new portion to be raised two feet higher, and a new abutment at the outlet to protect the sluice gate, and the wall to be well cemented on the inside and outside. The public road across the pond requires to be raised two feet higher, to prevent its being overflowed, as it now is in wet weather; and the several roads crossing and leading to the pans should be supplied with trunks to conduct the rain water to the sea.

Allen's Pond.—There is a tolerably good inlet to this pond, but it requires a better outlet, properly constructed and protected, to run off the rain water quickly, and a dam is needed across the pond to protect the cultivated portion.

Conch-Divers Pond canal requires the floodgate to be raised, and a breastwork formed to protect it. Windsor Pond is not yet under cultivation. Some of the pans in the different ponds of this island are in excellent order.

BAHAMAS.

19. Divine service is held in the schoolhouse, which is in want of a new roof. The foundation of a church much larger than is required was commenced and abandoned some time ago. The burial ground is unenclosed.

20. A building for the Crown Commissioner's office is much wanted.

Long Island.

21. The works on this island requiring attention and repair are,—

The Road from Chancery Pond.—Instead of repairing this road, I would advise that a canal be cut to the sea from the pond, which would serve the double purposes of letting out the rain water and conveying the salt at a cheaper rate. The road is very steep and rough, and would cost, to be properly repaired, as much as the making of a new road, and the annual expense of keeping it up would be considerable.

22. This island has to contend with an unusual difficulty from its formation, which is much more hilly than the generality of salt islands; and these high districts cause an accumulation of water which, unless the outlet to the sea be large enough to admit of its speedy removal, overflows the pans, and it has frequently happened that the produce of a season has been thus destroyed in a few hours. This, I apprehend, would be impossible with such a canal as I speak of. All the pans on this island are in such very good order that, should the season prove favourable, much salt must be made.

23. The canal at Harbour Pond requires to be cut deeper and wider at the mouth, and a metal grating to be placed across the entrance at this spot, to prevent, as far as possible, injury accruing to the ponds from the fish.

24. The lessees are willing to co-operate with the Government in any plans for the improvement of the ponds.

25. The prison requires a new roof and other repairs, the expense of which will exceed the grant made by the Legislature.

26. A police office is much wanted.

27. There is a good church on the island. The allotted burial-ground requires enclosing. At present graves are to be seen scattered about in all parts of the island.

28. Labour is much wanted on this island, and I would suggest that if a portion of the reserved ground in the vicinity of these ponds were given to such persons as would settle there it would tend to the removal of this difficulty.

Rum Cay.

29. The canals on this island require cleaning out, and in many places to be deepened. The sides should be walled up, to prevent the earth from being washed into the canals, and the earth should be thrown back at least twenty feet from the edges. The inlet to the pond requires to be widened, and the retaining walls repaired, and in some places rebuilt, the foundations not having been built upon the rock, and being otherwise defective.

30. A few moveable barrow runs or moveable bridges are required to enable the proprietors to wheel their salt to the temporary deposits across the canal. Two of the small bridges need repair.

31. During the rains the pans are often overflowed, and many heaps of salt swept away. To remedy this evil, I would recommend that a dam be made on the outside of the cultivated pans in the main reservoir, with two sluice gates in it, at least four feet high and twenty feet broad, extending the whole length of the pond now cultivated. Much loss has been sustained for want of this dam.

32. The main salt pond road requires repair.

The ground allotted for the deposit of salt should be re-arranged according to the number of acres of salt-pond held by each lessee; at present it is very irregularly laid out, and many have not room enough for the deposit of their salt, and some have no place at all.

33. The gaol needs some slight repair.

34. There is no church or schoolhouse belonging to the Establishment on this island. Divine service is held in the police office over the gaol.

35. I may mention that the land in this island is excellent, and cultivation might be much extended; at present corn, fruit, vegetables, and cattle are raised to some extent.

Norman's Pond Cay.

36. The salt-pond on this island is in a most excellent condition throughout, but requiring a good outlet on the east side, to prevent the pans from being overflowed, the present canal on the west side not being sufficient.

37. In front of this small island there is an excellent harbour of considerable extent protected by a line of cays, the anchorage within which is very good. There are two channels by which ships may enter this harbour; the deepest is that between the centre cay named Adderley Cay, which directly faces Norman's Pond Cay, and the three rocks called the Three Sisters. To mark this spot, I would recommend that a beacon should be erected upon Adderley Cay, from whence it would be visible for a sufficient distance on the outside of these cays. Some time ago a large vessel that was afterwards wrecked was seen driving past this channel in a heavy squall; had this opening to safe anchorage been known this vessel might easily have put in.

ST. SALVADOR.

38. The gaol at Arthur's Town is newly built, and of course in good repair, but the arrangements in placing a window between the cells, thereby enabling the prisoners to see and converse with each other, appears to me to be so objectionable that I should recommend its being filled up. The gaol at the Bight requires repair, for which a sum of money has been voted by the Legislature.

39. The soil of this island is excellent, and produces fine pine apples.

40. The salt-ponds are uncultivated.

NEW PORTSMOUTH (ROCK SOUND).

41. The wharf at this place, for which a grant has been made by the Legislature, is much wanted.

42. The road between Tarpum Bay and Rock Sound is almost entirely overgrown by the bush, and the sum voted by the Legislature for this work is barely sufficient for properly clearing the bush for a road twelve feet wide.

43. The burial ground is uninclosed, and the graves are very much exposed; some are barely covered.

44. Having fully examined into the various modes adopted by the salt proprietors on the different islands for the working of the salt ponds, it appears evident to me that the system of working by shares is the one that, under the peculiar circumstances of these islands, affords the most satisfactory results. Exuma is the only island amongst those that I have visited that has a sufficient supply of labourers, either for the salt works or for agriculture; and consequently some mode of proceeding that will overcome this difficulty must be devised before the islands can attain to anything approaching the remunerating productiveness of which they are capable; and wherever the share system is fairly carried out I have found that the proprietors are better off, and the labourers happy and contented; the interest they themselves have in the success of the work counteracts their roving and idle propensities, and thus secures to their employers, at all seasons, the full amount of needed labour.

45. Another topic I am induced to allude to before I close my report, which I hope may not be considered irrelevant to its intention, viz., the great advantages that would follow the establishment of a regular and speedy inter-insular communication in the Bahamas. At present (and I can speak from experience) it is often uncertain, difficult, and even dangerous, to go from one island to another; but with a moderate sized steamer, most of these dangers, and all the uncertainty and difficulty, would be avoided. The tides and currents run with fearful velocity through many of the passages and channels amongst the rocks and islands, and a sailing vessel is often unable to resist their force, whereas steam would give a power of resistance that would make it comparatively easy to round the difficult points and avoid the dangerous rocks. The regularity and speed of steam would connect the islands so much more closely that the produce of one might find a regular and certain market at others; and doubtless if such a vessel were fitted up for passengers the intercourse would become frequent and remunerative. The vessel that I should recommend for the purpose would be a small iron screw steamer, drawing eight feet of water, fitted up for sailing, and constructed to burn either wood or coal. A draught of more than eight feet would not be advisable, on account of the shallowness of many parts of the route that it would be desirable for it to take. There is abundance of wood on the islands, and it would of course economise to use this for fuel; at the same time that, as it could be supplied at the different islands, the carrying the great weight of a large quantity of fuel would be avoided. A steamer of this size might also keep up a regular communication with some near port in the United States, and neither the original cost, nor the expenses of keeping it up, would be very great.

Appended to this report will be found the estimates that I have drawn up of the proposed works, and I have no doubt they will approach very nearly, if not exactly, to the necessary sums; but as I have not as yet had much experience of the local difficulties of the Bahamas, I beg to be understood as giving an approximate rather than a positive valuation. Every country has its peculiar advantages and drawbacks for and against the execution of public works, and experience alone can authorize an engineer in giving a positive estimate.

I have, &c.

THOS. C. HARVEY.

ESTIMATES FOR THE PUBLIC WORKS ON THE OUT-ISLANDS

WORKS IN PROGRESS.

	£	s.	d.
Burial ground wall and gate, Inagua - -	125	11	10
Repair to wall of sluice gates to the southern canal, Inagua - - - - -	20	16	8

WORKS FOR WHICH GRANTS HAVE BEEN MADE BY THE LEGISLATURE.

	£	s.	d.
Wall and gate to burial ground, Inagua	129	0	0
Completing gaol at Long Cay	155	16	8
Repairs to gaol at Long Island	7	10	0
Completing gaol at St. Salvador	27	10	0
Public wharf at New Portsmouth, Rock Sound	60	0	0
Repair to road from Tarpum Bay to Rock Sound	70	0	0

PROPOSED WORKS.

Inagua.

Dock	5000	0	0
Salthouses	7000	0	0
Railroad	4000	0	0
Reservoirs for 6 months' supply for 700 inhabitants, at 3 gallons each per day	560	0	0
Dams to salt pond	80	0	0
Wharf	80	0	0
Sun dial and stand	14	0	0
Walls to enclose church and schoolhouse	140	0	0
Horse-Pond Wells, enclosing and cleansing	20	0	0

Long Cay.

Albert's Town Pond canal	20	0	0
Public road across the pond	25	0	0
Allen's Pond outlet	30	0	0
Dam across Allen's Pond	45	0	0
Conch-diver's Pond canal	12	0	0

Long Island.

Canal to the sea from Chancery Pond	860	0	0
Canal mouth, Harbour Pond	6	0	0
Metal grating	38	0	0
Prison repair	20	0	0
Wall around burial ground	70	0	0

Rum Cay.

Deepening and cleansing main canals	200	0	0
Walling portions of the sides of canals	700	0	0
Repair of retaining walls to canal inlet, and enlarging mouth	13	0	0
Barrow runs	16	0	0
Repair to two bridges	5	0	0
Dam across the pond	900	0	0
Repair to main road	20	0	0
Burial-ground wall	90	0	0
Norman's Pond Cay, canal of, and outlet	55	0	0

Out-Island Civil Engineer's Office,
December 13, 1855.

SIR,

I RETURNED on Saturday last from visiting Harbour Island, a part of the northern end of Eleuthera, Spanish Wells, and the Bluff, and I beg to report, for the information of his Excellency the Governor, the result of my examination of the public works, &c.

1. The proposed plan for the new prison at Harbour Island is not suitable for so large a district, and I have therefore delayed the commencement of the building until the contractor shall have received further orders. The district of Harbour Island, for which this prison is intended, 3,200 inhabitants, and the average number of prisoners per month for the last five months has been nine (all but one being from Harbour Island). The proposed gaol was to contain only two cells, each of the size of 9 feet 9 by 12 feet, so that as many as eight men, and often more, might have to be confined in the small space of 117 square feet.

2. The grant from the Legislature not being sufficient to make the required enlargement and to repair St. John's Chuch, I have been also obliged to delay this work. Whilst there I proposed a plan that I believe will considerably increase the accommodation in the church, and obviate the necessity of petitioning the Legislature for a further grant of money; and when I left it was the intention of the rector to call a vestry to take the plan into consideration.

3. The burial ground is unenclosed, and the graves can scarcely be discovered from the confused and irregular mode of placing them; more land will be continually required if some better plan is not adopted. I suggested to the rector that it would be advisable to

call a town meeting to decide on some regular plan of proceeding for the future, to economise the space; and I have promised to forward them a plan for the proper arrangement of the graves.

4. The harbour is shallow, but well protected, lying between the island and Eleuthera. Were a good channel kept open across the bar which extends from Dunmore Town to Eleuthera, large vessels might lie in perfect saftety near the Eleutheran shore opposite Dunmore.

5. Several vessels are in course of construction, one nearly completed, of a hundred tons burden.

6. The town might be greatly improved by the building of a wall about 200 feet from the shore, in front of the town, across that part of the extensive harbour where the sea has encroached, in some places as much as ten feet on the front side, the enclosed portion to be converted into a boat dock, with wharves and slips.

7. The inhabitants of Harbour Island cultivate small patches of land on the opposite shore of Eleuthera, and roads are much needed on the latter island, to enable them to prosecute with success their agricultural pursuits.

8. One is much wanted from the landing place from Harbour Island to Pitman's Cove, the pathway at present used being very circuitous, rugged, and, in rough weather, impassable, at the Narrows, over which a bridge ought to be built. The sea in tempestuous weather breaks violently through this gorge, and cuts the cove off from communication with Harbour Island.

9. A bridge across the Narrows would require to be 90 feet long, and to be built at an elevation of 30 feet above high water; but it could be used at all seasons, and would make the cove more habitable. At present, not even in cases of sickness, can they procure advice or help during bad weather. The expense of this road would be moderate.

10. A road has lately been opened from Bridget Point across Eleuthera towards Spanish Wells. This road should be extended over the hill to the harbour of Harbour Island, that in rough weather, when rounding Current Point is very dangerous, there might be the power of signalising to Dunmore for boats to cross the harbour. This road would enable the inhabitants of Dunmore and Spanish Wells to attend to their plantations on both sides, and to ship their produce in all weathers. Even since the opening of the present road, a few houses have been built, and plantations have been made, and they are rapidly extending. Corn, arrowroot, cassava, potatoes, yams, beans, peas, &c. are already growing luxuriantly nearly the whole extent of the road.

11. The planting of cocoa-nut trees has latterly engaged the attention of the people of Harbour Island, but not to anything like the extent it might be profitably carried.

12. Spanish Wells is a small island, with a well-protected harbour for vessels drawing about six feet of water. The inhabitants number 350, almost all white. They depend on their plantations in Eleuthera, on wrecking, and fishing; for support, they also raise a number of pigs, and make fishing twine and straw hats from the palmetto leaf. They have ten fishing smacks and two wrecking schooners belonging to them.

13. There is a small church built of wood, and a Wesleyan chapel, and there is a good public school. The burial ground, from being unenclosed, is in a sad state, the graves washed out by the sea, and rooted up by the pigs that run about the town, till bones can be seen on the beach and about the burial-places on the ridge.

14. The Bluff is a headland of Eleuthera. No harbour. The inhabitants, 300 in number, are all black, with the exception of one old white resident and his family, a Mr. Kelly, who owns lands several miles in extent. The settlement is in a valley at a short distance from the point of land called the Bluff, and the houses so entirely surrounded by fruit trees that they are hardly visible.

15. There is no wrecking from this place, and the people devote themselves to agriculture. They are extending cultivation, and planting rapidly. Almost all the tropical fruits may even now be seen there, and many vegetables. 500,000 oranges, 1,000 bunches of bananas and plantains, besides other fruits, and arrow-root, cassava, &c., have been shipped this year. Many trees were still full of fruit, which was sold, and awaiting shipment.

16. A road is much wanted from this settlement to the one from Harbour Island to the Cove. At present both are mere winding paths; but if one were made to join the proposed road to the Cove it would pass through much good land.

17. Well-water here is particularly good, pure, clear, and sparkling, in consequence of the rock being so firm and hard. There is no better anywhere in the Bahamas. The inhabitants of this settlement are industrious and orderly. About sixty able-bodied men turned out, and in two days cleared all the roads and streets.

19. A large swamp close to the settlement extends to the Current, and is found to be unhealthy, not being salt enough to prevent malaria. I had not time to examine thoroughly as to the feasibility of draining it, or admitting the sea-water.

20. Small boats are built here; four were on the stocks when I visited the place.

21. There is a small church and a Wesleyan chapel. No enclosed burial-ground; the graves very irregularly placed, and some hardly to be seen or recognized.

22. Royal Island is about three and a half miles long, and very narrow. The harbour is excellent; about one mile long and a quarter of a mile wide. Vessels drawing twelve

BAHAMAS.

feet of water can enter at any time, and lie there in perfect safety. It is much frequented by vessels from Nassau and Harbour Island. The "Skip Jack" surveying vessel, and other vessels of the surveying squadron under Captain Lawrence, anchored inside.

23. The island has some pasture-land on it, and raises a few pines, and corn, peas, potatoes, and yams. They have a few head of cattle, and pigs and poultry. It is occasionally resorted to by invalids from Nassau and other places.

24. I omitted to mention in my report on Andros Island the necessity of a road from the north of that island to Nicoll's Town, and from thence to Fresh Creek. The great importance of this road may be understood when it is considered that the vessels might be built at the latter place at a very moderate price, if there were the means of conveyance for the abundance of wood suitable to the purpose that is found at a short distance inland; and at the same time, that it would open a rich and valuable tract of land, that would speedily be cultivated.

25. I am anxious to bring forward the imperative necessity that exists for roads throughout the out-islands, to render the endeavours of the inhabitants successful, who now painfully feel the difficulties that surround them, in every effort they make towards agriculture, which efforts, if encouraged, would soon develop the many and great resources of these favoured islands.

I have, &c.
(Signed) THOS. C. HARVEY, C.E.

The Hon. C. R. Nesbitt,
&c. &c.

TURKS ISLANDS.

TURKS ISLANDS.

No. 10.

No. 10.

COPY of a DESPATCH from President INGLIS to the Right Hon. H. LABOUCHERE, M.P.

(No. 2.)

Government House, Grand Turk,
June 6, 1856.
(Received July 18, 1856.)

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to inform you, that in consequence of the great delay experienced in the completion of the Blue Books of this Colony, and with reference to your communication on the subject to Sir Henry Barkly, "Turks Islands, No. 16," of 16th April 1856, I have thought it advisable to transmit duplicate Blue Books, for the years 1854 and 1855, direct to the Colonial Office, along with a copy of my Report of 20th May last, addressed to Sir Henry Barkly; and I have this day advised Major General Bell, Lieutenant Governor, now administering the Government of Jamaica, of my having done so.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. R. INGLIS,
President.

Right Hon. H. Labouchere, M.P.,
&c. &c. &c.

Encl. in No. 10.

Enclosure in No. 10.

(No.17.)

Government House, Grand Turk,
May 20, 1856.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to forward the Blue Books for the years 1854 and 1855.

2. The Colonial Secretary has found some difficulty in obtaining the necessary returns from the Government Officers, which I have reason to believe will for the future be obviated.

3. The increase of duties which has devolved on the Receiver General, owing to his appointment in 1854 as Comptroller of Navigation Laws, without any additional assistance being granted him in his office, has been the means of increasing this difficulty, to which subject I shall have the honour of calling your Excellency's attention in another Despatch.

Exports, Imports, Revenue, and Expenditure.

4. The following statements, embracing the years 1853, 1854, and 1855, show:—

1st. The quantity of salt exported, and its value on the spot; the declared value of other exports, consisting principally of imported goods warehoused for exportation; the total value of exports, and the amount of shipping outwards:

2d. The declared value of imports, and the amount of shipping inwards: and,

3d. The revenue and expenditure from the Colonial Treasury and the Crown funds during the above-mentioned period.

1st. Statement of the Quantity and Value of Salt Exported; the Value of other Exports; and the Amount of Shipping Outwards, during the years 1853, 1854, and 1855.

Years.	Imperial Bushels of Salt.	Value at Turks Islands.	Declared Value of other Exports.	Total Value of Exports.	Shipping Outwards.
		£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	
1853	827,808	24,132 19 0	6,426 12 7	30,559 11 7	31,594 Tons.
1854	1,021,900	51,375 16 3	3,442 3 7	54,817 19 10	36,676 „
1855	391,584	22,964 10 8	5,317 16 11	28,282 7 7	19,834 „

2d. Statement of the Value of Imports, and Amount of Shipping Inwards, during the years 1853, 1854, and 1855.

Years.	Value of Imports.	Shipping Inwards.
	£ s. d.	
1853	32,478 15 10	33,552 Tons.
1854	34,263 7 8	39,254 „
1855	39,698 15 8	20,814 „

3d. Statement of the Revenue and Expenditure from the Colonial Treasury and the Crown Funds during the years 1853, 1854, and 1855.

Colonial Revenue.

	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Receipts in 1853	5,897 13 9½	
Balance from previous years	804 16 1¼	
Total receipts in 1853		6,702 9 10¾
Expenditure in 1853	6,107 0 1¾	
Supplementary Expenditure for 1853 paid the following year	368 3 7	
Total expenditure for 1853		6,475 3 8¾
Receipts in 1854	6,802 19 4	
Balance from previous year	227 6 2	
Total receipts in 1854		7,030 5 6
Total expenditure in 1854		5,496 15 2¼
Receipts in 1855	5,874 16 9	
Balance from previous year	1,533 10 3¾	
Total receipts in 1855		7,408 7 0¾
Total expenditure in 1855		6,301 5 1¾

TURKS ISLANDS.

Crown Funds.

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Receipts in 1853	3,564	5	7			
Balance from previous year	695	18	11¾			
Total receipts in 1853				4,260	4	6¼
Expenditure in 1853				3,796	13	11
Receipts in 1854	3,642	0	2½			
Balance from previous year	463	10	7¾			
Total receipts in 1854				4,105	10	10¼
Expenditure in 1854				3,923	8	3¼
Receipts in 1855	3,628	13	7			
Balance from previous year	182	2	7			
Total receipts in 1855				3,810	16	2
Expenditure in 1855				3,381	9	6¼

5. Salt is the only staple commodity produced in these islands; other products, such as sponge, braziletto, whale oil, &c. being in very limited quantity.

6. Other exports consist of wrecked property, generally exported to the United States, and imported provisions, warehoused for exportation to Saint Domingo, and other neighbouring islands.

7. Imports consist chiefly of articles of clothing, provisions, ardent spirits, and cotton goods, in quantities to some extent depending on the issue, prosperous or otherwise, of the preceding salt season.

8. A revised tariff, by Ordinance No. 2. of 1855, came into operation at the beginning of the present year, when the former tariff, which commenced in 1850, expired. The two principal reductions under the revised tariff are, "fish dried and salted" and "refined sugar;" the duties on both of which are reduced about one half, and now stand at 1*s.* per 100lbs. for fish dried and salted, and 8*s.* 4*d.* per 100lbs. for refined sugar. There is a slight increase of duty on rum, which it can well bear.

9. On taking over this Government in 1854, I found, that although the Receiver General's statement of receipts and expenditure for 1853 showed a surplus in the Treasury amounting to 595*l.* 9*s.* 9*d.*, the actual surplus available for 1854 amounted only to 227*l.* 6*s.* 2*d.*, owing to unforeseen contingent expenses incurred in 1853, which had to be provided for by a supplementary appropriation in 1854.

10. At the close of 1854, a prosperous year, there was a balance in the Treasury amounting to 1,533*l.* 10*s.* 3¾*d.*

11. The year 1855 was an unfortunate one, not more than a third of the average quantity of salt having been produced, together with an increased expenditure.

12. In my address to the Legislative Council, at the commencement of the present session, I mentioned, that although a deficient revenue in 1855 was the natural consequence, both directly by the diminished amount of export duty and indirectly from the natural anticipation on the part of importers of the inability of consumers to purchase more than the ordinary necessaries of life, the deficit in the revenue, though considerable, was somewhat less than might have been expected; the declared value of imports in 1855 being actually greater by nearly 6,000*l.* than in the previous year, though the amount of duties levied was less, owing to a large proportion of the imports being English dry goods, which, in common with similar goods of foreign manufacture, are subject to a comparatively small ad valorem duty.

13. The Receiver General's schedule of receipts and expenditure for the year ending 31st December 1855, in comparison with the year 1854, showed a—

	£	s.	d.
Decrease of import duties in 1855, of	235	10	0
A decrease in export duties, of	656	11	7
And in other sources of revenue, of	36	1	0
Giving a total deficit in the income of 1855, as compared with 1854, of	£928	2	7

14. It also showed an increased expenditure in 1855, over 1854, of 436*l.* 6*s.* 4½*d.*, more than accounted for by the fact of 1855 having had to bear, not only the expenses contingent on the visitation of cholera at the latter end of 1854, amounting to 370*l.* 18*s.* 8½*d.*, but also the expense of maintaining the lighthouse, amounting to 301*l.* 4*s.*, giving a total of 672*l.* 2*s.* 8½*d.* for two items of charges, the first happily never before required, and the second never before defrayed from the Colonial Treasury, which has had the benefit of the income derived from the lighthouse since its completion in 1852, while the expense of maintaining it has been borne by the Crown funds, having thus made the resources of the Colonial Treasury appear greater than they legitimately were, at the expense of the Crown funds of the colony.

15. The actual increase of expenditure over income in 1855 amounted to 426*l.* 8*s.* 4*d.*, which was met by means of the surplus revenue, and has reduced that useful fund to 1,107*l.* 2*s.* 11*d.*, with which amount in the Treasury we commenced the present year.

Public Debt.

16. The following is a schedule of the public debt of the colony, for the liquidation of which an amount was raised by means of debentures:—

	£	s.	d.
Proportion of public debt of the Bahamas assigned to this Government on the separation, chargeable from the 25th December 1848 with interest at 5 per cent. per annum	8,000	0	0
Annual balances of interest to the 31st December 1853	933	10	4
	£8,933	10	4

Payment.

By remittances made to the Bahama Government to 31st December 1853	8,942	15	2
Balance due by Bahama Government	£ 9	4	10

Of the above payments the amount of 1,838*l.* 6*s.* 8*d.* was raised within the colony, and is its actual debt still due, and bearing interest at 5 per cent. per annum.

Crown Funds.

17. During the years 1853, 1854, and 1855 the total receipts from Her Majesty's Crown funds, inclusive of a balance of 695*l.* 18*s.* 11¾*d.* from 1852, have amounted to 11,530*l.* 18*s.* 4¼*d.*, which has been expended under the following heads:—

	£	s.	d.
Government works in connexion with salt ponds	2,083	9	5
Ditto, ditto, not in connexion with salt ponds	544	15	6¼
Lighthouse	655	19	4¾
Military	181	15	6½
Surveys	17	0	8¼
Parochial department	1,044	2	11¼
Government schools	513	6	7¼
Hired buildings	709	7	6
Salaries and allowances	2,505	18	0¼
Miscellaneous connected with salt ponds	433	10	9¼
Ditto, unconnected with ditto	2,412	5	3¾
	11,101	11	8½
Balance at the close of 1855	429	6	7¾
	£11,530	18	4¼

TURKS ISLANDS.
Sub. Encl. No. 1.
Sub. Encl. No. 2.

On this subject I have the honour to transmit two Reports from the Crown Commissioner, dated respectively 16th March 1855 and 9th May 1856, entering into details on the state of the canals, roads, public buildings, and expenditure generally from these funds.

Education.—Government Schools.

18. An annual sum of 600*l.*, exclusive of scholars' fees, is expended in maintaining the Government schools of the colony. Of this amount 450*l.* is contributed from the general revenue, and 150*l.* from Her Majesty's Crown funds.

19. A Report, dated 15th March 1856, from Mr. Ockenden, head master and inspector, accompanied by a Return for 1855, gives the following favourable view of the progress of education during the year:—"From the return "accompanying the Report," says Mr. Ockenden, "it appears that the total "number of children under instruction in the Government schools during "the past year was 512, showing an increase of 67 over the preceding year. "The total amount of fees received as weekly payments from the scholars "in 1854 fell rather short of 37*l.*, but in 1855 the sum exceeded 70*l.*"

20. The population of these islands being estimated at 3,250, of whom about 900 are children of ten years of age and under, the proportion receiving education at the hands of the Government is probably not exceeded in any other colony.

Private Schools.

21. In addition to the Government schools there are four private schools, three for boys and one for girls, here and at Salt Cay, which, though not numerically large, are kept in an efficient manner by their respective masters and mistresses.

Schools in connexion with Religious Establishments.

22. There are also nine sabbath schools throughout the colony, in connexion with the different religious establishments, one belonging to the Established Church, two to the Wesleyan Methodists, and six to the Baptist denomination, at which 648 children receive some scriptural instruction.

Salt Ponds.

23. The statement in the Blue Book with regard to the extent of the area of the salt ponds under cultivation has been taken from old records, and is somewhat conjectural; no accurate survey having ever been taken, except of such salinas as have been reclaimed since the separation of this colony from the Bahamas.

24. A statement of the average quantity of salt, obtained from tolerably accurate data, produced in these islands during the last forty-eight years, is a refutation of the charge of the resources of this colony remaining undeveloped, frequently made by parties who, while endeavouring to promote their own views, apparently laudable in themselves, are however sufficiently unscrupulous to use the above argument, without due inquiry into its truth.

25. The following statement shows the average produce of salt during terms of years from 1808 to 1855, both inclusive:—

Terms of Years.	Average Salt crops. Imperial bushels.
1808 to 1817 inclusive, ten years	306,563
1818 to 1827 do.	641,342
1828 to 1845 do. eighteen years	723,900
1846 to 1855 do. ten years	972,682

26. During the first period, viz., from 1808 to 1817, two circumstances militated against a large product; one of these was the war with America, the principal customer of these islands; the other, the fact of two hurricanes taking place in 1813 and 1815, during which it is probable that the salt ponds suffered, and that their produce was partially destroyed.

27. It may therefore be true, that the first period in the above table does not give a fair average of a term of ten years. Taking, however, the next term,

from 1818 to 1827, as a starting point, we find during the following term of eighteen years a certain but slow increase; but the most marked increase takes place in the last term, during which time the ponds have been principally held under the new leasehold tenure, which commenced in 1845, when we find the average salt crop to be nearly 250,000 bushels per annum greater than during the previous eighteen years. Part of this increase is to be attributed to the cultivation of new salinas, as well as to the larger expenditure on the salt ponds generally, both by the Crown and the leaseholders.

28. Since the year 1848 there have been upwards of 150 acres of new salina ground brought under cultivation, fifty acres of which, at East Harbour Caicos, were only commenced last year, and must be the means, in process of time, of materially increasing the annual salt crop of these islands.

29. The colony is doubtless susceptible, under certain circumstances, of much greater development. The supply of labour, however, is, even under the present limited cultivation, inadequate to the demand during a prosperous season; more especially since 1854, when the cholera carried off some of the best labourers at Salt Cay; and there seems but little disposition on the part of capitalists to commence new enterprises of any great extent, which would involve the necessity of their taking measures to increase the labour market.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. R. INGLIS,
President.

Sub-Enclosure 1. to Enclosure 1. in No. 10.

Crown Commissioner's Office, Grand Turk,
May 9, 1856.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to submit my Report on the Public Works, &c. under the supervision of this department for the information of his Honour the President.

Canals.

Hawes' Salina Canal has been unfortunately found unequal to yield a sufficient quantity of sea water for the purposes of manufacturing salt. To remedy this, an amount of 63*l.* 5*s.* 1¾*d.* was expended in the extension of the canal further into the sea, to enable the erection of a powerful machine to force the water up to the salina.

A machine was planted at a cost of 81*l.* 1*s.* 11*d.*, but in consequence of the length of the canal (a distance of upwards of 1,400 yards) it was ultimately proved that another machine of smaller size would be required—about the centre of the canal—to warrant a full supply, and which has been provided for partially by the Government and partially by the lessees.

In consequence of the diseased state of the reservoir to the Town Pond at Salt Cay, a sum of 50*l.* was granted in aid of cleansing the same, and which has, so far, proved beneficial. A further outlay will be required to finally accomplish the object.

There has also been a machine supplied to the lessees of the Town Pond at Grand Turk to force the pickle from the main reservoir amongst the several allotments or pans. This machine, I am glad to say, has realized the expectations of the lessees.

Buildings.

In my Report on this subject for 1854 I had the honour to remark on a most desirable work pointed out by his Honour President Inglis,—that of constructing piers or jetties into the sea to protect the western side of the town.

Two of these jetties have been constructed at a cost of 109*l.* 18*s.* 0½*d.*, and which have proved of the most infinite service. I would here observe that more of the like construction in other parts of the town are needed, and would, doubtless, prove equally useful, if carried out.

A most desirable site for the erection of a Government House has been selected, and an outlay of 36*l.* 18*s.* 0¼*d.* has been caused in the clearing up of the ground, and collecting material for enclosing the same.

This amount was expended from the fund estimated for in the general estimates, "In aid of a Government House."

In consequence of the very limited accommodation for the lighthouse keepers, it was deemed advisable to make some temporary addition to the house used for the purpose at a cost of 29*l.* 5*s.* 3*d.*

As the rules of the lighthouse require that one of the keepers must always be on the place, I think it would be desirable to erect a sufficient residence so soon as the funds will admit of such an outlay. The present building may be very usefully converted into

TURKS ISLANDS.

a deputy assistant's dwelling; that person now occupies a part of the storeroom, which I conceive objectionable.

The public buildings rented by this department are the same as enumerated in my Report for 1854, at a rental of 225*l.* per annum.

Sanitary Measures.

In consequence of that direful disease, cholera, having broken out in these islands, it was desirable that every precaution be used to check, as far as possible, its spreading, thereby causing an amount of 117*l.* 6*s.* 7½*d.* to be expended in filling up swamps, draining off fresh water from the land, &c., &c.

Roads.

The only road of importance which underwent thorough repair was a part of Victoria Street, Salt Cay, at a cost of 198*l.* 12*s.* 8*d.* In rainy weather this road was partially under water and impassable, consequently required to be raised considerably.

The length of the road so repaired was 1,015 yards long and 7 yards wide, raised with large stones 13 inches, covered on the top with broken metal about 2 inches in thickness.

The roads at Grand Turk were principally kept up by convict labour.

Surveys.

The expenditure for surveys, amounting to 6*l.* 11*s.* 9¼*d.*, was for the laying out of building lots, principally for the labouring population here and at Cockburn Harbour. The receipts for the same amount to 73*l.* 7*s.* 10¾*d.* More receipts were due, but, owing to the bad salt season and scarcity of labour, many of the purchasers were unable to meet their several payments. Under these circumstances, his Honour James Misick, Esquire, whilst administering the Government, was pleased to allow them more time.

Miscellaneous.

The expenditure under this head comprises the unforeseen exigencies of the Government, as also the promiscuous repairs to the several public buildings under the supervision of this department, supplies of corn, &c., for labourers employed, paints, oil, stationery, &c., &c., and which amounts to 901*l.* 11*s.* 1¼*d.*; from this sum, however, there is an amount of about 50*l.* to the credit of the Government in the hands of Messrs. B. C. T. Gray and Sons, London, where an account current is kept.

The amount of 901*l.* 11*s.* 1¼*d.* exceeds the general average of miscellaneous payments, and is accounted for by the disbursement of the following sums not anticipated, viz.:—

	£	s.	d.
Paid John L. Nelson	27	12	0
„ R. J. Darrell, for services, keeping lighthouse accounts	30	0	0
„ Charles Baker, award for balance of purchase of site for lighthouse	12	10	0
„ George Gibbs, award for damages sustained by the removal of a wall at Well Hill	22	19	4½
„ In aid of public library, residue of grant in 1851	30	0	0
„ Medicines during prevalence of cholera	61	3	1
	184	4	5½
There are also two amounts as loans since refunded, viz.:			
Advanced to Inspector, &c. of Public Schools	80	0	0
„ for militia service, since refunded	5	5	6
	269	9	11½
Leaving a balance for the ordinary service of	632	1	1¼
	£901	11	1¾

I have, &c.
(Signed) THOS. GRAHAM,
Crown Commissioner.

Sub-Enclosure 2. to Enclosure 1. in No. 10.

Crown Commissioner's Office, Grand Turk,
March 16, 1855.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to submit my Report on Public Works, &c. under the charge of this department during the year 1854, for the information of his Honour the President.

Canals.

These canals are used for the admission of sea water to the salinas, and require annual expenditure, owing to the great accumulation of sand which gathers at the mouth, together with the heavy surfs which partially damage the retaining walls.

I think much expense might ultimately be saved if the retaining walls of the Town Pond Canal, Grand Turk, were extended a little farther out to sea, and a floodgate erected. This would entirely prevent the mass of sand from accumulating at the mouth of the canal.

The above remarks will also apply to the Town Pond Canal at Salt Cay.

The cost of opening these canals averages about 30*l.* per annum.

Buildings.

An amount of 132*l.* 9*s.* 2¾*d.* has been expended in collecting and squaring stones, with the intention of commencing a market house, but a work of much greater importance having been pointed out by his Honour President Inglis, with a view of preventing the encroachment of the sea on the western shore of this island, the stones were subsequently used for that purpose.

Mathew Tank, which is Crown property, has undergone thorough repairs at an expense of 31*l.* 15*s.*

This expense was caused by the unsatisfactory manner in which the tank had evidently been cemented, the material used being of a very inferior quality, consequently causing a great leakage.

I have used my best endeavours with the means at my disposal to remedy this evil, and, so far as I have had an opportunity of testing, I am happy to say the work has been very satisfactory, and trust that the means used will prove effectual.

This is a most desirable building to be kept up, as a great scarcity of water is almost annually experienced, more especially amongst the poorer population.

The parish church has been thoroughly painted, and the walls enclosing the burial ground repaired, at a cost of 53*l.* 11*s.* 2¾*d.*

I think there is a great necessity for the erection of a vestry room, there being no place for a robing or retiring room for the clergyman.

Government house, at an annual rental of 150*l.*, a military barrack, at an annual rental of 85*l.*, kept in repair at the expense of the Government, and an office for my department, at an annual rental of 20*l.*, making together 255*l.* paid for hired buildings. I conceive the above rents to be at an exorbitant rate, and cannot but concur with the views of the President, as conveyed in his Honour's opening address to the Legislature of the 23d January, that one of the most important works this department could turn its attention to is the erection of Government buildings, more especially a Government house and public offices.

A sum of 500*l.* is estimated from the Crown funds for 1855 towards the erection of a Government house. 300*l.* of this amount was subsequently held in reserve "in aid of military barracks," in the event of the colony being at half the cost of an iron barrack, as suggested by the late President; but should this project not be carried out, it is proposed to commence a "reserved building fund" with the above amounts, to be augmented by such sums as may from time to time be set apart for building purposes.

Sanitary Measures.

Owing to the unhealthy miasma arising from swamps to the north of Grand Turk, a sum of 51*l.* 3*s.* 6*d.* has been expended in filling up the grounds, and which, I hope, will prove effectual. The most effectual means, combined with economy, have been applied to this measure.

Roads.

I am happy to be able to state that the roads in this colony are, with few exceptions, in a tolerable good state of repair. The expense incurred at Grand Turk during the year 1854, which amounts to 188*l.* 14*s.* 4½*d.*, was principally in raising the south part of Salina Street,—a main road, which was a complete swamp during rainy weather. The length of road raised is about 215 yards long, and 7 yards wide; raised, on an average, 8 inches with hard stone, covered on the top with broken metal 2 inches thick. An annual expenditure is required on the roads.

Lighthouse.

The only work at the lighthouse which came under my direction in 1854 was the fixing of lightning conductors, the expense of which was 3*l.* 3*s.* 0¼*d.*; but for the secure completion it will be necessary to have stone tanks constructed in lieu of the wooden ones which have been temporarily placed for the reception of the chain leading from the conductors.

The expense of keeping up the department, and the supplying of materials, have been defrayed from the Crown funds up to the end of 1854, but are for the future to be disbursed from the general revenue, by order of his Honour the President.

TURKS ISLANDS.

Military.

The unusually large expenditure, under this head, was caused by the necessity of placing the colony in a more defensive position, it being considered necessary to renew some gun carriages, and erect platforms for cannon, sent here from Jamaica, which works were performed in as substantial and economical a manner as circumstances would permit.

Surveys.

The receipts for land sales amount to 49*l.* 7*s.* 8½*d.* for the year; and the expenditure, under this head, 1*l.* 9*s.* 3*d.* for attendance, &c. on surveyor, when laying out the different lots of land.

Public Schools.

There is a sum of 150*l.* annually estimated from the Crown funds in aid of the maintenance of the department, the expenditure of which does not come under my supervision.

Miscellaneous.

The expenditure, under this head, amounts to 1,086*l.* 15*s.* 0½*d.*, and is comprised of the promiscuous expenses incurred in miscellaneous repairs, and the means by which the unforeseen exigencies of the Government are liquidated.

The large expenditure for the year 1854 is accounted for by the following extraordinary payments, viz.:—

	£	s.	d.
For the purchase of furniture for Government house - -	210	8	0
One moiety of salary to Acting Stipendiary Justice - -	91	8	1½
Retaining fee to Queen's Advocate undertaking case of Acting Police Magistrate Stamers - - - -	22	1	0
Hire of a vessel to carry mails to and from St. Thomas -	56	11	5
Professional services of Colonial Physician attending sick at the Caicos - - - - - -	14	17	11
Travelling expenses of late Crown Commissioner - -	38	15	0
Ditto ditto of his Honour President Inglis - - -	20	16	8
Purchase of horse for the use of this department - -	25	0	0
	£479	18	1½

Leaving a balance of 606*l.* 16*s.* 11*d.*, which is about the average of the annual miscellaneous expenditure.

I have, &c.
(Signed) T. GRAHAM, C. C.

TRINIDAD.

TRINIDAD.

No. 11.

No. 11.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor Sir CHARLES ELLIOT to the Right Hon. H. LABOUCHERE, M.P.

(No. 71.)

Trinidad, August 20, 1856.

SIR, (Received Sept. 15, 1856.)

I HAVE the honour to forward the "Blue Book" of this colony for the year 1855.

The revenue for the year 1855, from all sources, applicable to the general purposes of the Government, exclusive of the revenue applicable to immigration service, amounted to 72,323*l.*, of which 53,608*l.* arises from the duties on customs, tonnage, wharfage, warehouse dues, and seizures, &c. In the estimates for 1855, founded upon the estimates of 1854, we assumed the revenue from these sources at 58,000*l.* Notwithstanding a considerable improvement in the trade of the colony during the first four months of 1855, the whole revenue from these last-mentioned sources fell short of the estimated amount 4,392*l.* The total expenditure of 1855 (exclusive of immigration) amounted to 80,657*l.*, leaving on the whole year a deficiency of 8,334*l.* Of this deficiency, however, it is to be noticed that the sum of 4,000*l.* arose from the expense of cholera during the autumn of 1854, and, being an extraordinary charge, it may be

deducted from the foregoing mentioned deficiency of 8,334*l.*, leaving the actual deficit 4,334*l.*

The expenditure in the year 1854 under the head of "Establishments" amounted to 51,744*l.* In 1855 it amounted to 46,081*l.*

The total expenses of the colony in 1854 amounted to 99,743*l.*, against, in 1855, of 80,657*l.*

This exposition will, I trust, satisfy you that no effort has been spared on my part to reduce the expenditure of the colony; but I felt it my duty, for the reasons stated in my Despatch, No. 91, 1855, to move the Council to make provision in the estimates for 1856 for balancing the income with the expenditure. That recommendation was adopted, on the report of a Committee of Council, to whom the subject was referred; and I have satisfaction in being able to report that the improvement of the revenues arising from the increased imports and the operation of the small export duty imposed at the close of 1855 has been attended with advantageous results. The income for the first six months of 1855, from all sources, applicable to the general purposes of the Government, amounted to 37,244*l.*; for the same period in 1856, 48,005*l.* When I arrived here, on the 8th March 1854, there were in the treasury 18,000*l.* On the 22d May, when I announced that Her Majesty had been graciously pleased to accept my resignation of this Government, there were in the chest about 28,000*l.*, to which may be added 8,000*l.* remitted to England on immigration account since the 1st of January 1856; so that our treasury situation on the 22d May 1856 was 18,000*l.* in excess of what it was at the commencement of my administration. I hope that this improved condition of things will be maintained.

The exports during the years 1853, 1854, and 1855 are shown in the annexed table. The crop of 1855, owing to the prevalence of heavy rains, was short; and I am afraid that the opposite cause, of severe drought, during the present crop season, may to some extent disappoint expectations which were entertained at the commencement of the year, of a very large return. The increased prices of sugar and other staples have, however, been attended with the best consequences on the trade and prospects of the colony; and I cordially hope that this favourable condition of circumstances may continue, for it is impossible to contemplate the exertions of the planting interest in this island to struggle with the long succession of difficulties and low prices without sincere sympathy. The export of our staples to the United States is a novel and advantageous feature in the trade of this colony. Till the autumn of last year, when the failure of the Louisiana crop, and indeed the short supply of sugar in all the producing regions in this part of the world, our returns to the imports from the United States were made almost entirely in cash. For the future it may, I think, be hoped that they will be sugar purchasers in these markets.

Enclosure 1.

In my report accompanying the Blue Book of 1854 I described the modifications effected in the wardens' ordinances, and I have now the pleasure to state that the good effects of these changes have been fully sustained. The improved means of administering the rural concerns of the colony, brought about by the union of convenient wards, have enabled me, with the assistance of the Colonial Secretary, to compile a valuable statistical return, copy of which I have the honour to annex to this report. I may also add, that the principle of paying the wardens partly by a commission on the rates recovered by them, without recourse to sales of properties by decree of the Court of Intendant, has encouraged that systematic attention to the interests of the smaller classes of property holders which I had hoped for. The wardens, with their whole time at the disposal of the public, and with their interest and reputation as public officers involved in the prompt collection of the revenue, have naturally given constant and steady regard to the situation of the smaller ratepayers; and I think that in the course of the year 1856 the business of the Court of Intendant will be diminished by nearly two thirds, compared with what it was three years since.

Enclosure 2.

The road concerns of the colony are also much more satisfactorily managed than they have ever yet been, and upon the whole I cannot but congratulate the colony upon the satisfactory results of the changes introduced into this interesting body of law. The merit and the importance of the principle rest entirely with my predecessor, and I am persuaded if he had remained here that

TRINIDAD.

he would have carried out improvement in the details with better ability than I can pretend to have done.

Between the date of my report for the year 1854 (No. 50. of 1855) and the present date I have succeeded in transporting to Port of Spain from the Crown forests (worked for the first time on an extended scale since this colony has formed part of the empire) 24,500 cubic feet of hard wood of different descrip tions, in logs of greater length and square than had ever been previously laid down on the wharves of this town. The total expense of these operations (including the cost of an efficient steam saw-mill imported from the United States), of a substantial shed for the machinery in Port of Spain, and of working the mill, to the end of June last, amounts to $35,000, the cost of the mill and shed having been rather less than half of the sum of $35,000, *i. e.* $16,000.

At the prices paid out of our treasury for hard wood for the public service during the seven years preceding the commencement of operations in our own forest (1854), this amount of 25,800 cubic feet of hard timber would have cost the colony $37,000, *i. e.*, $1 50 per cubic foot. Assuming, however, that it could have been procured at $1 per cubic foot, *i. e.* $25,000, there would still have to be computed the large saving effected by sawing up by machinery, instead of by the slow and expensive process of manual labour. For example, since the saw-mill was set into operation, on the 1st Nov. 1855, there have passed through it for the public works about 16,000 cubic feet of timber, which at the old prices would have cost at least $8,000. So that even at the rate of $1 per cubic foot an amount of 25,000 cubic feet of timber, when worked up into scantling, would be worth $33,000, *i. e.*, about $2,000 less than has been charged to the colonial treasury for all the timber brought to Port of Spain, and all expenses whatever, both for the mill and shed, and for working, to the end of June last.

It will have been noticed in my despatches on this subject, that it has always appeared to me to be a very weighty consideration connected with the opening out of our Crown forest lands in this colony, and of procuring effective machinery for working up the timber promptly and economically, that this island possesses the only safe harbour throughout these parts of the empire for the establishment of the Sectional Floating Dock. Easy and economical means of examining and repairing the bottoms of a great steam military and mail service is a requirement, the want of which, in this part of the world, may at any sudden moment be most seriously felt; and, speaking as a professional man, and with a long and extensive experience in the West Indies, I think myself well warranted in saying,—

1st. That no means are so suitable for such a purpose in the West Indies, in every point of view, as the Sectional Floating Dock; and,

2dly. That no point in the West Indies is so eligible for the establishment of such means as Chaguaramas Harbour in this colony.

When the contract was renewed with the West India Packet Company, I have always thought it was to be regretted that they were not required to maintain a bi-monthly communication in a screw-propeller of a convenient size, so as to carry some amount of cargo between this colony and Porto Cabello, touching at La Guayra, and by powerful light draught paddle-vessels from hence up the Orinoco, in the first place as high as Angostura, and gradually, as encouragement offered, still higher. That such a line would not have paid at first is of course most probable, but that it would do so eventually can scarcely be doubted. It is important to the commercial interests of the empire that we should avail ourselves of the favourable position of this island for taking our part in the steam navigation of this mighty highway into the neighbouring regions of the South American continent. If that enterprise offers sufficient encouragement to spirited and far-seeing merchants settled in the United States, it should surely do so, under proper management, from this advantageously situated depôt for such a trade and for the repairs of vessels engaged in it. This subject is well worthy of steady pursuit by all parties engaged in the trade and steam navigation of these regions.

In the course of the twenty-seven months of my administration of this colony the following public works have been completed or are in progress:—

1st. About half of the reservoir works at Maraval for the water supply of Port of Spain. (Done.)

2d. St. Vincent Wharf completed to the extent originally intended, that is from 300 to 600 feet.

3d. The new wash-house, complete.

4th. Colonial hospital will be ready, accidents apart, by the end of this year. This was a work of urgent necessity, and it is material to consider that when it is complete the debt of the colony will be reduced by 10,000*l.*, because the colonial treasury is liable to that extent for this service on account of old legacy duty.

5. The underground drainage of the new wash-house, colonial hospital, and Royal gaol in advanced progress, and will be complete, accidents apart, before the end of the current year. When the efficacy of this system is established, I trust it will become general throughout the town, for assuredly nothing can be more necessary to the health of the population than the underground drainage of this swamp of impurities.

6. Lunatic asylum. A large part of the materials for this building are already collected in Port of Spain.

I annex reports by the acting inspector of schools and the keeper of the Royal gaol. The first would show that the attendance in the schools is on the increase, and the last tends to prove that the burden of our gaol and police expenses is chiefly attributable to our position as a mixed population-importing colony. The small proportion of commitments to gaol of natives is a subject of satisfactory reflection. Blue Book, p. 234. Blue Book, p. 297.

Considering that more than one half of the period since I have been here was one of great depression, and that we were visited by a formidable and chargeable epidemic in the course of it, I can only hope that this exhibition of what has been accomplished in the course of the last two years will, on the whole, not be deemed unsatisfactory. At all events it is gratifying to me to be able to report that I leave the finance of the colony in a fairly healthy condition; and I doubt not that those who are to follow me will do more than I have been able to accomplish towards making this town, with its excellent harbour facilities, what it has every capacity to be, that is, the metropolis of this part of the West Indies. It needs only the combined exertions of spirited and enlightened general and local administration to ensure for it that position within no long lapse of time.

I have, &c.

(Signed) CHARLES ELLIOT.

Enclosure 1. in No. 11.

EXPORTS during the Years 1853, 1854, and 1855.

Produce.	1853.		1854.		1855.	
	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.
		£		£		£
Cocoa - -	4,904,719 lbs.	42,690	3,379,157 lbs.	41,277	4,547,060 lbs.	56,889
Coffee -	64,849 „	1,393	58,934 „	1,181	49,682 „	1,014
Cotton -	16 bales, 546 seroons	836	397 bales, 20 seroons	749	82 bales, 302 seroons	786
Molasses -	1,201,019 galls.	34,563	782,401 galls.	15,324	415,762 galls.	11,836
Rum - -	99,834 galls.	10,995	285,446 „	29,291	317,872 „	27,390
Sugar - -	48,020,613 lbs.	349,557	50,055,998 lbs.	389,319	43,424,076 lbs.	285,419
	U. S. none.		U. S. 167,500 lbs.		U. S. 900,830 lbs.	
Sundries -	—	6,043	—	3,732	—	4,674

Exported to United States from 1st January to 16th June 1856,—5,949,350 lbs. Sugar.

Enclosure 2. in No. 11.

STATISTICAL RETURN of the Ward Unions of the Colony of Trinidad, exhibiting also the Revenue and Expenditure of the several Wards, and the Balances standing to their Credit or Debit on the 1st January 1856.

WARD UNIONS.	Population.	No. of Rate-payers.	No. of Acres in Cultivation in Ward, in: Canes.	Cocoa, Coffee, Cotton.	Provisions.	Pasture.	Uncultivated.	Total No. of Acres.	No. of Houses.	Valuations of Lands.	Annual Rent or Value of Houses.	Rate Assessed. On Lands.	On Houses.	Rate for 1855.	Revenue. Balances 1st January to Cr. or Dr. of Wards.	Ward Rates collected in 1855, with Arrears of former Years.	Spirit Licences.	Wood Licences.	Miscellaneous Receipts.	Total Receipts.
										Dls. c.	*Dls. c.*	*Dls. c.*	*Dls. c.*	*Dls. c.*	*Dls. c.*	*Dls. c.*	*Dls. c.*	*Dls. c.*	*Dls. c.*	*Dls. c.*
ARIMA WARD UNION.																				
Arima	1,707	455	50	1,484	235	133	8,893	10,795	290	115,872 80	7,444 60	2,896 82	558 34	3,455 16	Cr. 413 84	3,937 16½	1,050 0	—	—	5,401 0½
Guanapo	454	112	37	703	60	28	5,752	6,580	45	55,623 20	546 50	1,390 58	40 98	1,431 56	„ 159 28	1,782 33	—	—	—	1,941 61
Upper Caroni	421	92	—	468	55	—	1,086	1,609	60	28,341 60	1,440 0	708 0	108 0	816 0	„ 284 36	874 29½	210 0	—	—	1,368 65½
Manzanilla	257	84	—	15	142	—	1,635	1,792	84	11,460 0	1,188 0	286 50	89 10	375 60	Dr. 20 47	239 41	—	—	—	239 41
Tourure	467	168	—	439	63	1	3,901	4,404	100	34,309 20	373 70	857 73	28 2	885 75	Cr. 166 84	908 53½	210 0	—	—	1,285 37½
CEDROS WARD UNION.																				
Cedros	2,352	96	1,912	—	187	367	5,311	7,777	89	131,114 40	5,672 26	3,276 86	425 41	3,702 27	Cr. 2,721 16	4,936 22	990 80	60 60	53 46	8,762 24
La Brea	806	196	362	—	146	168	9,612	10,288	151	55,526 80	5,830 67	1,387 93	437 29	1,825 22	„ 1,025 9	1,924 69	730 0	22 50	10 8	3,712 36
COUVA WARD UNION.																				
Chaguanas	1,217	32	1,014	118	34	211	6,227	7,604	26	81,038 40	3,144 0	1,012 98	125 76	1,138 74	Cr. 872 56	1,314 54	1,170 0	33 0	634 77	4,024 87
Carapichaima	776	141	321	52	91	96	5,426	5,986	151	39,799 20	4,494 0	992 98	337 5	1,330 3	„ 601 21	1,516 89	330 0	10 0	—	2,458 10
Couva	2,179	343	1,220	349	391	250	5,774	7,984	298	119,937 60	14,371 80	2,998 44	1,077 82	4,076 26	„ 1,462 18	4,100 67	1,200 0	9 0	—	6,771 85
Savonetta	2,030	226	1,821	53	369	745	6,773	9,761	216	159,679 20	12,049 20	3,992 70	903 69	4,896 39	„ 1,498 9	4,906 83	1,350 0	9 0	—	7,763 92
Pointe-a-Pierre	1,563	309	833	55	402	95	5,938	7,323	334	80,731 20	13,958 40	2,018 28	1,046 88	3,065 16	„ 52 32	2,888 78	720 0	9 0	—	3,670 10
DIEGO MARTIN WARD UNION.																				
Diego Martin	1,733	260	680	226	193	243	6,048	7,390	309	78,931 20	8,407 60	1,973 28	630 57	2,603 85	Dr. 1,081 37	2,921 1	450 0	—	*1,000 0	4,371 1
Maraval	1,049	245	83	403	174	138	4,031	4,829	188	47,978 40	5,269 46	1,199 46	395 21	1,594 67	„ 53 7	1,849 40	240 0	—	—	2,089 40
Mucurapo	937	106	370	2	52	130	773	1,327	108	28,447 20	6,444 0	592 66	322 20	914 86	Cr. 1,281 65	899 99	390 0	—	—	2,571 64
Carenage	1,106	250	206	18	165	50	4,519	4,958	225	31,917 60	4,816 40	797 94	361 23	1,159 17	„ 372 20	1,234 10	360 0	—	—	1,966 30
Chaguaramas	681	146	2	—	156	—	3,212	3,370	114	15,393 60	2,579 60	384 84	193 47	578 31	Dr. 219 20	820 26	—	—	—	820 26
MAYARO WARD.																				
Mayaro	985	164	129	—	289	23	9,146	9,587	161	43,118 40	4,481 70	1,077 93	337 5	1,414 98	Cr. 463 8	1,152 31	240 0	—	—	1,855 39
Nariva	194	32	—	5	239	20	872	1,136	26	14,764 80	654 0	369 12	49 5	418 17	„ 655 84	247 0	120 0	—	—	1,022 84
NORTH NAPARIMA WARD UNION.																				
North Naparima	2,191	233	3,740	—	68	406	2,082	6,296	238	210,362 40	14,896 20	5,259 6	1,117 21	6,376 27	Cr. 1,773 47	6,359 86	1,560 0	—	38 45	9,731 78
Savanna Grande North	1,076	187	2,168	9	277	148	5,337	7,939	156	138,441 60	4,815 60	3,461 4	361 17	3,822 21	„ 958 36	4,112 56	420 0	50 0	46 99	5,587 91
Savanna Grande South	2,730	428	1,199	20	654	143	3,736	5,752	528	105,734 40	9,240 0	2,643 36	693 0	3,336 36	„ 1,483 77	3,632 36	780 0	109 75	44 54	6,050 42
SOUTH NAPARIMA WARD UNION.																				
South Naparima East	2,186	106	3,266	20	245	342	5,945	9,818	123	199,855 20	6,787 20	4,996 38	509 4	5,505 42	Cr. 330 75	5,611 32	750 0	—	2 40	7,294 47
South Naparima West	3,317	92	3,450	10	191	531	3,789	7,971	137	210,499 20	8,518 80	5,262 48	638 90	5,901 38	77 39	5,901 46	780 0	42 30	—	6,801 15
Oropouche	1,133	210	954	4	110	226	3,749	5,043	171	12,940 0	5,864 0	1,777 74	439 80	2,217 54	492 33	2,243 76	870 0	25 30	6 32	3,637 71
ST. ANN'S WARD UNION.																				
Aricagua	1,379	201	943	48	137	417	2,133	3,678	231	79,173 0	6,250 0	2,149 76	468 0	2 61 76	Cr. 613 72	2,815 73	450 0	—	—	3,879 45
Cimaronero	602	156	338	126	149	51	1,497	2,161	106	35,441 0	2,038 0	886 0	152 0	1,038 0	„ 667 36	1,057 29	180 0	—	—	1,904 65
Laventille	1,828	618	54	192	653	83	2,032	3,014	436	51,964 0	11,952 0	1,299 0	896 0	2,195 0	„ 325 3	2,401 56	120 0	60 0	34 48	2,941 7
St. Ann's	950	316	6	185	208	118	2,076	2,593	222	31,329 0	5,277 0	783 0	395 0	1,178 0	„ 65 60	1,331 12	240 0	—	—	1,636 72
Santa Cruz	1,905	318	59	2,007	321	103	8,954	11,444	296	2,749 0	1,650 0	3,007 23	1,237 0	4,244 23	„ 735 28	4,820 10	720 0	—	—	6,275 38
TACARIGUA WARD UNION.																				
Caura	787	157	—	969	200	30	2,114	3,313	89	62,625 60	1,055 4	1,565 64	79 12	1,644 76	Cr. 425 80	2,017 53	150 0	—	—	2,593 33
Lower Caroni	484	55	422	311	76	69	3,850	4,728	45	51,384 0	1,374 0	1,284 60	103 5	1,387 65	„ 520 80	1,388 10	150 0	—	—	2,058 90
Maraccas	1,027	225	—	1,171	290	10	6,670	8,141	145	86,616 0	2,024 16	2,165 40	151 81	2,317 21	„ 447 3	2,439 67	240 0	—	—	3,126 98
St. Joseph	843	219	1,044	87	52	286	1,608	3,077	208	74,462 40	8,034 0	1,861 56	602 55	2,464 11	„ 792 32	2,463 76	960 0	—	—	4,216 8
Tacarigua	3,788	469	2,376	418	191	855	9,984	13,824	580	208,281 60	16,046 40	2,603 52	641 85	3,245 37	„ 2,578 7	3,289 29	2,250 0	—	—	8,117 36
	47,140	7,447	29,059	9,967	7,265	6,516	160,485	213,292	6,686	2,745,843 20	208,987 99	69,220 80	15,952 62	85,173 42	26,291 17	90,339 89½	20,380 89	440 45	1,871 49	137,949 69½

* Loan.

Enclosure 2. in No. 11.—*continued.*

STATISTICAL RETURN of the Ward Unions of the Colony of Trinidad, exhibiting also the Revenue and Expenditure of the several Wards, and the Balances standing to their Credit or Debit on the 1st January 1856—*continued.*

WARD UNIONS.	EXPENDITURE.																									
	Warder's Salary with Arrears of past Year.	Warden's Commission.	Ward Debt.	Road Debt.	Contribution to General Police.	Ward Constables.	Education including Rent of School Houses.	Maintenance of Paupers in Hospital.	Burial of Paupers.	Relief of Destitute.	Administration of Justice.	Inquests.	Registration of Births, Deaths, &c.	Printing and Advertising.	Building Hospitals.	Surveying.	Houses of Refuge, Dispensaries.	Purchase of Land Cemetery.	Water Works.	Medical Officer.	Allowances to Receiver General for Clerk and Stationery.	Miscellaneous.	Transfers to Roads.	Cholera Expenses.	TOTAL EXPENDITURE.	Balance to *Cr.* or *Dr.* 1st January 1856.
	Dls. c.	*Dls. c.*	*Dls. c.*	*Dls. c.*	*Dls. c.*	*Dls. c.*	*Dls. c.*	*Dls. c.*	*Dls. c.*	*Dls. c.*	*Dls. c.*	*Dls. c.*	*Dls. c.*	*Dls. c.*	*Dls. c.*	*Dls. c.*	*Dls. c.*	*Dls. c.*	*Dls. c.*	*Dls. c.*	*Dls. c.*	*Dls. c.*	*Dls. c.*	*Dls. c.*	*Dls. c.*	*Dls. c.*
ARIMA WARD UNION.																										
Arima	801 70	244 40	—	160 64	345 51	182 0	364 0	11 52	33 82	—	—	27 60	95 72	70 20	—	—	120 75	—	—	—	19 20	7 67	600 0	350 32	3,435 5	Cr. 1,965 95½
Guanapo	608 84	102 8	—	48 22	143 15	156 0	—	7 0	6 0	—	—	—	9 52	33 15	—	—	14 78	—	—	—	8 58	3 66	200 0	70 67	1,411 65	„ 529 96
Upper Caroni	232 28	63 70	—	46 51	81 65	78 0	—	—	6 0	—	17 60	40 60	19 72	34 15	—	—	—	—	—	—	6 54	3 67	100 0	51 81	782 23	„ 586 42½
Manzanilla	81 90	19 60	20 47	—	37 56	—	—	—	11 0	—	—	—	—	5 75	—	—	—	—	—	—	2 10	18 6	—	52 90	249 34	Dr. 9 93
Tourure	400 16	50 22	—	—	88 57	104 0	—	16 32	5 40	—	—	—	10 64	36 85	—	—	—	—	—	—	5 16	28 66	100 0	73 57	919 55	Cr. 365 82½
CEDROS WARD UNION.																										
Cedros	989 17	525 0	—	260 0	491 78	508 50	597 0	239 38	3 25	22 48	27 30	17 60	31 44	32 50	709 19	—	—	—	—	1,050 0	28 92	715 69	1,825 84	307 83	8,382 87	Cr. 379 37
La Brea	580 81	195 0	—	171 88	182 52	137 30	471 0	69 12	5 0	—	26 10	—	30 0	31 50	—	—	—	—	—	—	13 80	152 55	1,350 0	58 50	3,475 8	„ 237 28
COUVA WARD UNION.																										
Chaguanas	215 70	86 25	—	79 70	226 18	179 0	535 60	213 29	—	—	3 80	—	54 28	17 0	—	—	—	—	—	25 0	16 80	46 99	2,000 0	120 82	3,820 41	Cr. 204 46
Carapichaima	363 65	65 46	—	60 40	133 20	135 0	—	31 90	6 0	53 30	—	—	23 56	29 55	—	—	—	—	—	—	8 94	288 66	850 0	277 17	2,326 79	„ 131 31
Couva	630 15	204 6	—	188 82	296 39	168 0	523 10	378 70	24 0	—	—	38 40	64 92	63 5	—	—	—	—	—	300 0	27 30	42 72	3,000 0	618 95	6,568 56	„ 203 29
Savonetta	658 98	215 61	—	200 48	489 54	208 0	546 20	153 58	3 0	—	60 20	9 60	64 64	42 60	—	—	—	—	—	300 0	34 50	42 72	3,941 60	450 98	7,422 22	„ 341 70
Pointe-a-Pierre	491 55	148 62	—	137 46	282 12	209 0	—	255 12	55 80	—	79 10	29 60	77 48	48 35	—	—	—	—	—	—	18 6	—	1,000 0	697 64	3,533 56	„ 136 54
DIEGO MARTIN WARD UNION.																										
Diego Martin	505 5	233 0	1,081 37	—	267 45	147 0	456 0	251 38	9 20	24 25	1 0	—	74 36	56 80	—	—	—	—	944 66	—	22 98	6 92	—	234 65	4,316 7	Cr. 54 94
Maraval	464 63	159 6	53 7	—	183 36	158 0	31 50	6 22	—	—	—	—	37 44	73 65	—	—	—	—	—	—	14 58	14 66	500 0	315 52	2,011 69	„ 77 71
Mucurapo	297 18	137 26	—	—	126 4	77 0	—	79 42	3 0	38 0	—	—	27 96	39 80	—	—	—	—	—	—	7 68	6 67	500 0	85 84	1,425 85	„ 1,145 79
Carenage	321 56	120 72	—	—	125 38	144 0	16 0	45 58	11 70	51 0	—	24 0	55 16	43 70	—	—	—	—	—	—	9 42	4 66	500 0	217 96	1,690 84	„ 275 46
Chaguaramas	259 58	69 96	219 20	—	48 51	100 0	—	—	—	—	—	—	14 92	44 15	—	—	—	—	—	—	3 78	3 66	—	71 89	835 65	Dr. 15 39
MAYARO WARD.																										
Mayaro	592 25	153 25	—	—	158 40	210 0	419 0	—	3 0	3 0	—	—	31 44	12 80	—	—	—	—	—	—	10 50	26 16	—	24 53	1,644 33	Cr. 211 6
Nariva	137 75	43 36	—	—	40 50	30 0	—	—	—	20 0	—	—	—	11 50	—	—	—	—	—	—	2 94	31 16	—	45 35	362 56	„ 660 28
NORTH NAPARIMA WARD UNION.																										
North Naparima	937 68	348 84	—	709 28	637 62	228 54	1,020 20	244 80	90 50	48 10	192 42	115 0	112 64	69 95	—	22 67	—	—	—	—	39 72	33 50	2,750 0	448 99	8,050 45	Cr. 1,681 33
Savanna Grande North	441 60	160 80	—	327 8	344 59	217 44	518 45	108 0	22 0	1 0	70 90	—	41 12	48 46	—	86 10	—	—	—	78 0	25 38	62 50	1,350 0	199 72	4,103 14	„ 1,484 77
Savanna Grande South	420 72	210 36	—	427 54	365 0	231 10	681 80	217 20	—	—	9 60	—	93 16	70 8	—	34 35	—	—	—	102 0	22 56	67 70	1,650 0	563 82	5,166 99	„ 883 43
SOUTH NAPARIMA WARD UNION.																										
South Naparima East	546 24	273 14	—	368 10	550 0	160 10	534 70	278 70	41 0	—	55 40	69 40	85 18	50 93	—	—	—	—	—	—	33 66	128 5	3,800 0	287 0	7,261 60	Cr. 32 87
South Naparima West	594 48	297 24	—	400 56	571 99	212 40	628 47	262 56	25 0	6 0	273 88	49 80	62 40	47 33	—	—	—	—	—	—	34 38	127 79	3,065 47	111 59	6,771 34	„ 29 81
Oropouche	299 28	149 62	—	201 62	242 32	210 50	451 85	205 36	19 75	—	117 86	—	26 76	56 83	—	—	—	—	—	450 0	12 84	231 1	866 90	32 98	3,578 48	„ 59 23
ST. ANN'S WARD UNION.																										
Aricagua	544 14	159 59	—	120 90	249 60	225 0	578 75	18 24	10 35	—	19 44	45 30	45 4	28 50	—	—	—	100 0	—	—	18 48	48 32	550 0	715 35	3,477 0	Cr. 402 45
Cimaronero	128 70	68 9	—	48 22	106 56	152 0	—	4 80	3 0	—	3 30	—	24 92	25 0	—	—	—	100 0	—	—	8 10	34 50	600 0	248 27	1,555 46	„ 349 19
Laventille	448 57	138 11	—	145 42	216 0	141 0	—	42 94	2 65	3 0	2 20	13 0	31 36	29 50	—	—	—	—	—	—	11 10	9 39	1,000 0	753 59	2,987 83	Dr. 46 76
St. Ann's	251 88	76 9	—	—	119 4	176 0	—	3 60	—	—	—	—	16 24	44 40	—	—	—	—	—	—	7 98	22 66	300 0	465 48	1,483 37	Cr. 153 35
Santa Cruz	648 32	278 12	—	199 52	435 0	260 0	503 70	43 66	18 80	4 80	3 60	—	57 96	55 40	—	—	—	100 0	—	—	31 86	22 68	2,700 0	406 23	5,774 65	„ 500 73
TACARIGUA WARD UNION.																										
Caura	150 15	115 20	—	62 58	166 62	142 0	—	—	—	—	—	—	18 84	43 95	—	—	—	—	—	—	11 52	9 94	300 0	97 74	1,118 54	Cr. 1,474 79
Lower Caroni	171 54	100 80	—	46 51	138 50	146 0	379 30	2 22	—	—	—	27 60	22 56	21 5	—	—	—	—	—	—	7 50	9 24	—	36 84	1,109 66	„ 949 24
Maraccas	221 13	153 60	—	92 16	261 14	161 0	289 5	48 50	2 50	—	0 30	—	48 60	52 90	—	—	—	—	—	—	16 38	11 24	750 0	189 70	2,298 20	„ 828 78
St. Joseph	554 47	182 40	—	131 90	246 52	287 0	575 50	261 32	22 56	104 25	2 28	9 60	80 88	55 20	—	—	—	—	—	—	13 80	12 85	450 0	849 72	3,840 25	„ 375 83
Tacarigua	882 71	168 0	—	317 86	654 41	347 0	1,452 60	487 8	114 90	197 48	—	63 40	123 68	83 90	—	—	—	—	—	—	37 32	20 95	—	830 98	5,782 27	„ 2,335 9
	15,874 50	5,716 61	1,374 11	4,953 36	9,052 82	6,227 88	11,573 77	3,987 43	559 18	576 66	966 28	580 50	1,614 54	1,510 43	709 19	143 12	135 58	300 0	944 66	2,305 0	594 36	2,297 26	36,599 81	10,364 90	118,973 53	19,120 32½

Dr. *Dls.* 144 16
Cr. 18,976 16½

Dls. 19,120 32½

Enclosure 2. in No. 11.—*continued.*

STATISTICAL RETURN of the Ward Unions of the Colony of Trinidad, exhibiting also the Revenue and Expenditure of the several Wards, and the Balances standing to their Credit or Debit on the 1st January 1856—*continued.*

WARD UNIONS.	RATE PAYERS.																									
	Under 1 Dollar.	From 1 Dollar to 2 Dollars.	2 to 3.	3 to 4.	4 to 5.	5 to 8.	8 to 10.	10 to 15.	15 to 20.	20 to 30.	30 to 50.	50 to 70.	70 to 100.	100 to 125.	125 to 150.	150 to 175.	175 to 200.	200 to 250.	250 to 300.	300 to 350.	350 to 400.	400 to 450.	450 to 500.	500 to 550.	550 to 600.	600 to 650.	TOTAL.
ARIMA WARD UNION.																										
Arima	26	155	107	57	20	35	12	11	11	5	3	4	2	—	—	3	1	1	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	455
Guanapo	14	23	10	4	3	13	10	11	3	7	5	5	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	112
Upper Caroni	2	8	8	16	7	16	6	10	11	7	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	92
Manzanilla	7	1	6	16	39	15	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	84
Tourure	59	8	57	15	5	9	2	3	2	1	5	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	168
CEDROS WARD UNION.																										
Cedros	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	96
La Brea	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	196
COUVA WARD UNION.																										
Chaguanas	4	—	1	1	4	2	4	2	1	2	2	2	1	1	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	2	1	—	—	—	32
Carapichaima	7	31	39	12	9	21	11	2	3	1	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	141
Couva	30	9	61	56	39	78	38	10	7	5	1	—	2	1	1	—	2	—	1	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	343
Savonetta	8	15	17	50	33	62	21	—	4	2	2	—	—	2	2	—	—	2	—	—	1	1	4	—	—	—	226
Pointe-a-Pierre	17	21	50	70	46	71	18	—	5	3	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	2	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	309
DIEGO MARTIN WARD UNION.																										
Diego Martin	30	57	44	35	14	31	15	17	5	5	2	—	—	—	1	2	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	260
Maraval	43	21	37	27	39	43	11	10	9	—	2	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	245
Mucurapo	19	30	22	11	4	8	2	—	3	3	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	106
Carenage	28	81	79	23	11	13	4	5	2	1	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	250
Chaguaramas	34	11	36	27	11	14	2	5	3	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	146
MAYARO WARD.																										
Mayaro	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	164
Nariva	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	32
NORTH NAPARIMA WARD UNION.																										
North Naparima	14	29	41	33	36	40	10	5	2	3	1	1	—	—	—	—	1	5	6	2	2	—	2	—	—	—	233
Savanna Grande North	34	22	15	33	20	34	2	9	4	1	—	—	2	—	3	1	—	1	1	2	1	—	1	—	—	1	187
Savanna Grande South	59	73	53	74	30	97	18	11	3	1	2	—	—	—	2	—	—	1	2	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	428
SOUTH NAPARIMA WARD UNION.																										
South Naparima East	3	15	11	11	10	17	6	11	1	3	1	—	1	1	1	—	—	3	3	3	2	2	—	—	1	—	106
South Naparima West	3	5	18	5	10	13	7	4	6	2	—	—	—	1	—	2	—	3	7	3	1	—	—	2	—	—	92
Oropouche	8	72	73	19	14	10	3	1	—	1	1	2	1	—	—	—	—	3	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	210
ST. ANN'S WARD UNION.																										
Aricagua	55	25	55	21	19	12	1	6	—	—	1	—	1	2	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	201
Cimaronero	45	21	34	25	11	10	2	2	1	2	—	—	1	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	156
Laventille	158	118	104	55	48	88	18	15	7	3	3	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	618
St. Ann's	80	68	46	27	28	29	5	9	3	9	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	316
Santa Cruz	12	10	26	26	30	87	31	46	15	14	14	8	1	1	7	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	318
TACARIGUA WARD UNION.																										
Caura	4	2	14	7	19	41	18	28	11	5	4	2	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	157
Lower Caroni	—	1	1	—	5	8	7	10	7	7	6	—	—	—	1	4	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	55
Maraccas	19	21	29	28	12	48	10	18	13	8	13	2	1	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	225
St. Joseph	20	61	44	30	17	23	3	5	2	3	—	2	4	1	—	1	—	—	1	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	219
Tacarigua	214	103	57	27	22	20	3	7	3	—	1	1	—	1	2	—	4	3	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	469
	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	7,447

THOMAS F. JOHNSTON, Colonial Secretary.

BRITISH GUIANA.

No. 12.

No. 12.

Copy of a Despatch from Governor Wodehouse to the Right Hon. H. Labouchere.

(No. 122.)

Government House, Georgetown, September 9, 1856.

Sir, Received October 4, 1856.

I have the honour to forward by this opportunity the Blue Book of the colony for the year 1855.

2. In obedience to Sir George Grey's circular despatch of the 9th August 1854, a list has now for the first time been inserted of the public furniture in the Government House. The building cannot at present be said to be completely furnished, as, besides the articles enumerated, there are many others in use which do not belong to the colony. A considerable portion of the public furniture is also old, and requires to be replaced or repaired; but there are funds at command by means of which all that is deficient can at a convenient time be supplied.

3. Taxes.—The tax ordinance of 1855 is distinguished from those of previous years mainly by the fact of its containing for the first time schedules of stamp duties. The number and description of transactions and documents which have been brought under this liability are very limited, and the rates imposed are very moderate. Indeed the whole may be regarded in the light of an experiment, upon the success of which no opinion can yet be given, for the reason that although these duties were fixed by the tax ordinance of 1855, and renewed by that of 1856, it is only within a very few days that the government has been enabled to complete the arrangements for levying them.

4. The revenue for the year amounted to 255,008*l.*, giving an apparent increase upon that of 1854 of 36,307*l.*, from which, however, must be deducted about 6,000*l.*, under various heads, for receipts which have hitherto been appropriated in diminution of expenditure, but which are now for the first time brought forward as revenue. The principal actual increase will be found under the heads of import duties, 10,399*l.*, wine and spirit duties, 3,909*l.*, and rum duty, 2,888*l.* Under the last a much greater apparent increase is shown, but that is attributable to the abandonment of the previous habit of deducting from these receipts the sum of 25,000*l.* specially set apart for immigration services, and including it among the immigration receipts. The sum now appears in its proper place.

5. The expenditure for the year is given at 239,511*l.*, being 10,927*l.* in excess of that for 1854. The first item of increase, viz., that of the ecclesiastical establishments, amounts to no less than 7,841*l.* This, however, is entirely nominal, as a corresponding deduction will be found to have been made from the charges for the civil list to which the clergy had previously been attached. The only item upon which there is an important addition to the expenditure is that of the sea wall. This charge, amounting to 22,000*l.*, is entirely new. The works which protect the city of Georgetown from the sea had up to the year 1854 been maintained under the orders and at the cost of Her Majesty's government; but in the course of that year an intimation was received from the Secretary of State to the effect that no further aid could be granted for this service, and that the funds required must be provided by the colony. A few months later a very destructive inundation took place, and from that time there has been a constant heavy drain upon the resources of the colony for the restoration of the defences, which, however, are now satisfactorily progressing towards completion.

6. The ordinances enacted by the legislature in the course of the year were in number 27. Among them, not the least important is that "to define the "terms and conditions upon which assistance shall in future be granted from the "public funds for the promotion of education." It declares that such assistance shall be granted for the support of all schools conducted under the superintendence of Christian ministers of whatever denomination, upon condition that reli-

BRITISH GUIANA.

gious instruction, founded on the Holy Scriptures, shall be given to the pupils, that certain fees shall be paid for all children attending, that the teachers must possess certain qualifications in order to entitle them to the various rates of salary allowed, and that the schools must be subject to inspection and to general rules to be laid down by the governor and the Court of Policy. The ministers of every denomination, excepting the London missionaries, have availed themselves of the assistance thus offered by the government; and I am in hopes that by means of steady perseverance, and the introduction, as circumstances will admit of it, of a superior description of teachers, we may at length make some impression upon the ignorance now unfortunately pervading a great majority of the population. Among the other ordinances will be found one for the consolidation of the laws relating to the relief of the poor, and one for the amendment of the manner of proceeding in the Supreme Civil Court, both of which appear to be working beneficially.

7. I have in the course of the last few months had occasion to address you so frequently upon all the most important subjects connected with the administration of this government, and my time has of late been so fully occupied, that I hope you will on the present occasion excuse my abstaining from further remarks upon the other subjects treated of in the Blue Book.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) P. E. WODEHOUSE.

The Right Hon. H. Labouchere.
&c. &c. &c.

BARBADOS.

BARBADOS.

No. 13.

No. 13.

EXTRACT of a DESPATCH from Governor Sir W. M. G. COLEBROOKE to the Right Hon. H. LABOUCHERE, M.P., dated Windward Islands, Barbados, January 21, 1856, No. 4.

(Received February 16, 1856.)

" I HAVE the honour to submit the following report on the Blue Book of Barbados for 1855.

" *Finance.*

" The financial difficulties to which the colony was exposed throughout the greater part of the last year were attributable to the disorganization produced by a severe outbreak of cholera in 1854, and the extraordinary charges it occasioned,—to the falling off of the import duties,—and to the inadequacy of the provision made in the session of 1854-5 to meet the deficiency. It therefore became necessary, in the following session, to raise a further loan of 15,000*l.*, in addition to the previous loan of 10,000*l.*; and by increasing the duties on licences for the retail of spirituous liquors, and imposing a duty of one shilling a gallon on rum manufactured and consumed in the island, from which a revenue of from 15,000*l.* to 20,000*l.* is expected to be derived, ample means have been provided for the liquidation of all outstanding claims and for the public service of the present year, and a signal benefit has been conferred on the island in the moral effects which will result from the regulation of the licences and the duty on the consumption of rum

" With a view also to the introduction of a better system of finance, Acts were passed to provide for the appointment of an auditor of public accounts, and for the discharge of all arrears due at the close of the year, the period at which the annual accounts are in future to be made up.

" The practice of the chartered colonies of the West Indies has been, to intrust the controul and management of their finances to certain legislative committees, established under local Acts. In Barbados, until the appointment of the auditor, the public accounts were examined by the finance committee, to whom the treasurer, an officer annually chosen by the assembly, was accountable; and in answer to a proposal in 1843 to alter this system, Lord Stanley remarked, that, 'confided, as the duty entirely was, to the hands of

'the Colonial Assembly, any interference with it on the part of the Executive 'would be a delicate matter, and require the exercise of great caution.'

"The derangement of their finances, however, has given occasion from time to time, in the several colonies, to the interference of the Executive Government for the protection of the public interests; and it is due to the Assembly of Barbados to state, that, however tenacious of their privileges, after the experience of the last two years they have appreciated the advantage of rendering the auditor an officer responsible to the Government; and by appointing to the office a gentleman who holds a seat in the Assembly, a course which is for several reasons to be recommended, he will be enabled to take a leading part in the financial business of the island.

"*Commerce.*

"I have in former reports stated the objections I have entertained to the system of revenue which has obtained of late years in these islands, by the increase of the duties upon commerce, in substitution for the direct taxes formerly imposed. The change was gradually introduced after the abolition of slavery, and has been prejudicial to the trade of the islands, but as the Assembly of Barbados has shown a disposition progressively to repeal the duties on corn and provisions, and to raise an equivalent revenue from internal taxation, and as the island from its windward position is already the centre of an extensive intercolonial trade, the completion of these measures, if carried out, will have the effect of rendering it the emporium of a flourishing commerce, by which the prosperity of all classes of the people will be promoted.

* * * * * *

"*Legislation.*

"The most important legislative measures which have been passed during the last year have been the Acts 'for improving the law of evidence,' 'for amending 'the laws relating to juries and jurors,' 'for the management of the new 'prisons,' and 'for the conditional discharge of prisoners,' the post office Act, and the financial Acts to which I have alluded above.

"*Juries and Jurors.*

"By the Act relating to juries and jurors, some improvement has been effected in the composition of the petty juries; but the continued exemption of councillors and other leading members of the community from the lists has been extremely detrimental to the constitution of the grand juries.

"*Prisons.*

"The Act for the management of the new prison erected in the vicinity of Bridgetown has made provision for the instruction of the prisoners. This prison having been opened in the last year, time has not yet been afforded to realize the full benefits to be expected from it; and as it provides only for the separate confinement of seventy-two male prisoners, a further number of convicts are sent daily from the old gaol to be worked there, and to participate in the instruction afforded, until an extension of the buildings will admit of their separate confinement within it.

"As the area is extensive, it is proposed to erect within the walls a penitentiary for female convicts, which is much required; and as funds have been appropriated for the purpose, and as the labour of the male convicts will be employed on it, I hope, now that the credit of the island has been restored, that the work will be promptly executed.

"The juvenile asylum is situated in the rural districts, where the boys can be employed in agricultural labour on the neighbouring estates; but as it has not been hitherto found practicable to establish district schools for their reception, to which their parents could be made to contribute, they are subject to frequent recommitment for petty offences.

"They are generally very ignorant, and their sentences too short to afford time for them to derive much benefit from the instruction they receive in the asylum.

"In reference to the reformatory principle, on which the new prison has been established, the extension of the period for the grant of conditional discharges

BARBADOS.

has been favourable to a system which is still open to considerable improvement.

" Prisoners who conduct themselves well during two thirds of the periods of imprisonment for which they are sentenced may, on recommendation, be conditionally discharged, the condition being that they present themselves from time to time to the magistrate of the district in which they reside ; and if they neglect to do so, and fail to satisfy the magistrate that they are reputably employed and associated, they are liable to be recommitted. The subdivision of the districts, and the appointment of a body of rural and town constables, annually chosen from the respectable householders in each locality, is favourable to the enforcement of these conditions, where such officers are zealous in co-operation with the magistrates and the police for the preservation of the peace of their respective divisions.

" As, however, prisoners are thus discharged in consideration only of their good conduct in prison, the restriction is limited to those who may be presumed to be the least disposed to violate the conditions ; and it is much to be regretted that there is no provision for the surveillance of the magistrate and police over these incorrigible offenders, who, at the expiration of their sentences, are unconditionally liberated, and thus enabled without restraint to confederate with their old associates in crime ; and if, with some special provisions, all convicts were subject to this surveillance on their discharge, as a part of their original sentences, society would be better protected than it now is from the consequences of their evil passions.

" Transportation from the colonies having long ceased to be sanctioned, the formation of penal settlements to which convicts might be removed has been frequently proposed, but, besides the objection which each colony entertains to the reception of convicts from the others, the facilities which are offered for their return after the expiration of their sentences constitute a material drawback from the advantages attending their removal ; but if convicts, and especially old and incorrigible offenders, were subject to a strict surveillance of the magistracy and the police after their discharge, they would be induced voluntarily to emigrate, to escape from the liability to such restraint.

" *Education.*

" The prevalence of the cholera in 1854, and the consequent financial difficulties in 1855, conspired to disorganize the parochial schools, in regard to which some details were included in my report on the Blue Book for 1848, but it is hoped that no existing impediment to their progress will present itself in the present year.

" The attention of the Assembly has been drawn to the subject, and especially to the means which may be applied to the improvement of the training schools. At the examination of the central school in the last year, I was gratified to observe, that, although it had suffered in common with the others, its efficiency had not been impaired, several pupil teachers having been very successfully trained in it. I regretted only to find that no candidates had been brought forward from the female central school, when several might have been selected with advantage for training. I regret to observe that the parish schools are still, for the most part, in a defective condition.

" *Military Defences.*

" The amendmeut of the militia laws is still under the consideration of the Assembly ; and as the obstacle to the reorganization of the Assembly, from the state of the island finances, has been removed, there is reason to expect that the session will not be allowed to terminate without the adoption of an effective measure for the public security, which, with the assistance of Her Majesty's Government, may be carried out in the course of the year.

" *General Observations.*

" The defective constitution of the local Assemblies has been a frequent subject of observation in preceding reports ; and I have only to repeat my conviction, the result of much experience, that, for the good government of these colonies, the measures contemplated on the establishment of the general government would be desirably carried out by the convention of a general Assembly.

" Referring to former reports, I will here remark, that the principles of responsible government, which are impracticable under the present system of divided legislation, would hold out great encouragement to proprietors and their relations to take part in the general administration of the colonies, which it is on every account desirable to promote, while, by an extension of the franchise, the bonds which unite them to the peasantry would be strengthened, who are generally disposed to look up to them with confidence and regard, where they have been treated with humanity and justice.

" Unless such a change may be effected, by which the co-operation of the proprietary body may be brought about, it may be confidently affirmed that the institutions of these colonies cannot be long maintained, and that the government must, sooner or later, interpose, to arrest the disorganization which has already spread throughout the smaller communities, and will in time extend to the larger ones.

" I have, &c.
" (Signed) W. M. G. COLEBROOKE.

" The Right Hon. H. Labouchere, M.P.,
" &c. &c. &c.

" P.S.—The abstract of the returns which has accompanied the reports of previous years has unavoidably been delayed, for the completion of some of the details, and will be hereafter forwarded.

" W. M. G. C."

No. 14. No. 14.

EXTRACT of a DESPATCH from Governor HINCKS to the Right Hon. H. LABOUCHERE, M.P., dated May 7, 1856. No. 25.

(Received June 5, 1856.)

" I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith the Barbadoes Blue Book for the year 1855, together with various comparative statements.

" Although the period embraced in these returns was prior to my assumption of the Government, I should have felt it my duty to make the usual report to accompany the Blue Book, had I not been anticipated by my predecessor, to whose Despatch, page 100, of the 21st January, No. 4. Executive, I have the honour to refer you.

* * * * * *

" It may be also proper that I should advert to the proposition for uniting the Windward Island Colonies into one Legislature. I have not only been unable to concur with my predecessor in recommending such a measure, but I have found public opinion, so far as I have been able to ascertain, unanimous against it. I am far indeed from anticipating the disastrous results for these Colonies which are apprehended by Sir W. Colebrooke, in the event of the failure of the scheme of union; but as I am of opinion that controversial discussion is out of place in a despatch of this character, I shall confine myself to a simple expression of my dissent from the opinion expressed in the last paragraph of my predecessor's report on the Blue Book for 1855."

BARBADOS.

Enclosure in No. 14.

BARBADOS.

ABSTRACT RETURN from "Blue Book" of 1855.

Revenue.

Year.	Customs Receipts.				Assessed and other Taxes.	Incidental or other Receipts.	Total.	Decrease.
	Imports.	Exports.	Tonnage.	Rent.				
	£		£	£	£	£	£	£
1854	35,762	Nil.	9,218	—	9,583	4,579	59,142	—
1855	*29,223	Nil.	9,810	742	12,222	†6,395	‡58,462	680

* Amounts claimed for drawback not included, 361*l.*
† Includes deposit of casual receiver, 1,152*l.*
‡ Exclusive of arrears of revenue 1854, 6,197*l.*, and of public loan, 10,113*l.*

Expenditure, Colonial.

Year	Civil Government.	Judicial.	Ecclesiastical.	Education.	Police.	Prisons.	Public Buildings.	Legislative Grants.	Other Expenditure.	Total.	Decrease.
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
1854	9,545	7,366	7,020	1,882	16,231	3,335	6,103	2,277	17,468	71,227	—
1855	9,884	7,634	6,865	2,677	13,772	5,244	2,390	826	20,272	*69,523	1,704

* Exclusive of drawback, 361*l.*, and includes repayment of loan and interest, 3,830*l.*

Expenditure, Great Britain.

Year.	Civil.	Military.	Total.	Remarks.
£	£	£	£	The first column includes Governor's salary and establishment, the clergy and packet agent's salary, allowances to stipendiary magistrates. The second column includes all military expenditure.
1854	10,150	70,275	80,425	
1855	9,700	66,390	76,090	

Population.

Year.	Males.	Females.	Total.	Remarks.
1854	Estimated at - -		124,568	
1855	62,272	73,667	135,939	Per Census of 1851.

Land.

Year.	Area in Square Miles.	Acreage under Cultivation.	Remarks.
1854	166	100,000	It has been found impracticable, without legislative assistance, to obtain any accurate information on this subject.
1855	166	100,000	

Coins and Currency.

Year.	Specie in Circulation.	Notes in Circulation.	Remarks.
1854	50,000*l.*	36,000*l.*	British silver constitutes almost the entire currency. There is also a limited circulation of British gold.
1855	45,000*l.*	40,000*l.*	The only paper currency is colonial bank notes.

Churches.

Year.	Church of England.	Other Denominations.	No. of Sittings.	Average Attendance.	Remarks.
1854	49	—	26,726	—	No accurate returns of average attendance.
1855	49	—	26,128	—	

Value in Sterling.

	Imports.				Exports.			
Year.	From Great Britain.	From British Colonies.	From Foreign Countries.	Total.	To Great Britain.	To British Colonies.	To Foreign Countries.	Total.
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
1854	Not returned separately.			596,843	782,156	141,672	22,021	945,849
1855	296,098	124,330	224,356	644,784	572,243	163,612	54,475	790,330

Shipping.

	Inwards.				Outwards.			
Year.	From Great Britain.	From British Colonies.	From Foreign Countries.	Total.	To Great Britain.	To British Colonies.	To Foreign Countries.	Total.
1854	33,567	27,324	34,500	95,391	37,927	27,566	23,695	89.188
1855	29,460	32,601	34,664	96,725	33,326	37,738	25,881	96,945

Criminal and other Prisoners.

Year.	Men.	Women.	Boys.	Girls.	Total.	Increase.	Debtors.
1854	1,082	482	186	116	1,866	—	16
1855	1,509	762	401	135	2,807	941	21

GRENADA.

GRENADA.

No. 15.

No. 15.

EXTRACT of a DESPATCH from Governor HINCKS to the Right Honourable H. LABOUCHERE M.P., dated Windward Islands, Barbados, May 2, 1856, No. 18. (Received June 5, 1856.)

"I HAVE the honour to forward to you a Despatch from Lieut.-Governor Keate, containing his observations on the state and prospects of Grenada, which he intended to serve to some extent as his report upon the 'Blue Book' of that island for 1855, the returns of which were not likely to be completed before his departure from Grenada."

Encl. in No. 15.

Enclosure in No. 15.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Lieutenant Governor KEATE to Governor HINCKS.

(No. 34.)

SIR, Government House, Grenada, April 23, 1856.

The "Blue Book" for 1855 not having yet been placed in my hands by the Colonial Secretary, from whom I also learn that it is not likely to be completed before my departure from the island, in the event of my obtaining the leave of absence for which I have been compelled so suddenly to apply, I have thought it desirable that before I go I should offer a few general observations on the state and prospects of the colony, which, though not positively founded on the "Blue Book" returns, may serve to some extent as a report upon them.

2. I regret to have to commence by stating that the income of the colony raised within the year 1855 was again insufficient to meet the expenditure sanctioned. The principal but not the only discrepancy between estimated and realized receipts occurred in that branch of the revenue which has been exhibiting for some time past a progressive unfruitfulness, namely, the customs duties. Their produce during the previous four years had been as follows:

In 1851	-	10,280*l.*
In 1852	-	9,637*l.*
In 1853	-	8,631*l.*
In 1854	-	6,983*l.*

They were estimated by the House of Assembly in committee of ways and means to produce in 1855, 7,150*l.*, but realized only 6,401*l.* The decline in progress was for a long time attributed to temporary and accidental causes; but experience and observation have demonstrated, to me at least, that it can only be legitimately ascribed to the fact of a decided diminution having taken place in the purchasing and consuming powers of the community. This is sufficiently accounted for by the gradual change which has been going on for a series of years, but more perceptibly within the last two or three, in the composition and habits of society in the colony.

3. The existing tariff of import duties is so framed as to be dependent in a great degree for its productiveness on the extent to which sugar, the old staple of the island, is manufactured, for that was and still is, though not by any means so exclusively, the main spring of its prosperity. A number of sugar estates have, however, from a variety of circumstances too well known to need explanation, been successively abandoned as such; and it was impossible but that, as one after another went out of cultivation, the number of persons supported in comparative affluence upon them, or engaged in commercial pursuits connected

with them, forming together the upper ranks of society, would diminish; that supplies intended for their use or for estates purposes would continue to arrive in smaller quantities from year to year; and that the revenue from imports would proportionally suffer. Nor must the stricter economy with which the remaining estates are conducted, and the less expensive habits of life engendered by the smaller profits obtainable from them, be left out of view in the consideration of the question.

4. It is true that many of the properties alluded to are not lying waste, but are being cultivated successfully in cocoa, coffee, and other minor exportable articles, or at least as provision grounds, so that a substitution rather than a cessation of industry has taken place, but it has not been of a kind to render equal service in swelling the indirect income of the colony. For the production of cocoa or coffee comparatively few supplies are required from abroad, and for that of provisions none beyond the commonest implements of husbandry. In neither case is occupation afforded for that large amount of superintending labour which has been thrown out of employ by so extensive an abandonment of sugar making, or a new opening for that commercial enterprize which has been partially paralysed by the same cause. A class of peasant proprietors and renters of land has come into existence, which in its degree is making rapid strides in prosperity and independence, and a new class of tradesmen more fitted to supply its limited wants than the larger mercantile firms. But with the change in their position the peasantry of Grenada have hitherto altered but very slightly their simple habits of life, and consequently their purchases of imported goods for personal consumption do not suffice to fill up the void that has been created. As they advance in civilization as well as in material well-being they will no doubt become consumers on a more extended scale, but the present tariff, being adapted to a different state of things, operates to check this development. While that phase of prosperity then on which the import revenue was mainly based has been diminishing, another, by which it is at present scarcely affected, has been arising, and this change of circumstances has unfortunately not been accompanied by any corresponding change in the fiscal system of the colony. Though additional direct taxation has been resorted to, no attempt has yet been made to re-invigorate the consuming powers of the higher classes, or to stimulate those of the lower, by any abolition or judicious reduction of import duties. So far from this having been the case, a Bill passed the House of Assembly towards the close of the year for raising the rates on the principal items in the tariff, which was in fact to endeavour to improve the customs receipts by enhancing the causes which have led to their decline. This Bill, however, has not become law.

5. The recent history of the internal taxation of the colony is equally illustrative of the social change in progress. The graduated rate, for instance, which has been levied year after year, with some modifications, on the rental value of houses of a class to be occupied by persons in the higher walks of life, has been gradually but very perceptibly falling off in productiveness, while the fixed tax imposed on the cottages of the peasantry continued to yield increasing results, till a temporary check was given to them by the ravages of the cholera in 1854, and it is now beginning to regain its elasticity. The receipts from the duty on saddle horses and mules, chiefly used by the upper classes, have only been kept up to anything like their former amount by the rate having been raised, while the humbler quadruped of the peasant has been brought within its scope. The special liability to road service, commutable by a money payment, imposed by a recent Act on all male persons within certain ages, has, moreover, had the effect of making this rising class of the community contribute still further to the public needs, while it has fallen but lightly on their superiors in the social scale.

6. This Act, and that for the imposition of an excise on rum for general purposes, passed a short time before it, would have made up for the decrease of the customs revenue to a greater extent than they have, had it not been that the former only came into operation towards the middle of the year, when a sum of between 700*l.* and 800*l.* had already been drawn out of the Treasury for the repair of roads, and that the machinery of the latter has not been found to work so well as was hoped and expected. By one of its clauses the tax on licences to retail spirits was doubled, which has only tended to diminish the number of licences taken out, and to encourage illicit sales. But one great object aimed at

GRENADA.

by it was to ensure a more complete collection of the duty on consumption, by taking the responsibility of payment off the shoulders of the retailer, on which it lay, under the old annually renewed Acts for raising an immigration fund, and placing it upon those of the distiller. All that can be said on this subject at present is, that the experiment has not answered. So long as it is attempted to carry out a system of excise without a staff of excise officers, as is done in Grenada, the duties exacted under it, by whomsoever disbursed in the first instance, must remain in the category of those which have been aptly termed conscience taxes.

7. But the adverse balance in the year's accounts is not to be solely attributed to too sanguine anticipations having been entertained of the produce of this or that item of revenue. Nor is it to be explained by increase of expenditure, for such as there was was rather apparent than real. Acts for remodelling and fixing at a reduced rate the emoluments of the several offices of government have one after another come into force, as vacancies occurred in them. Hence certain charges are now introduced in the schedule of expenditure which before had no place in them, having been defrayed by the heads of departments out of the fees by which they were then in part remunerated; but the fees themselves now begin to appear on the other side of the account among the sources of income. The salaries of a surveyor of roads, public works and buildings, and of division officers, under the New Road Act, have taken the place of the far larger sums voted in former years for the maintenance of the roads. A controllership of customs was also established on the withdrawal of the imperial customs' officers, with which I trust will eventually be combined all the functions of an audit office; but the expenses connected with this change are already partly balanced by a diminution in the number of revenue officers, and will be further met hereafter by a reduction in the salary of the treasurer, which is to take effect on the next vacancy. The improvement in the collection of the revenue, and in the keeping and checking of the public accounts, which is being effectuated by the measure, will amply compensate for the remaining difference. Some additional outlay was incurred for police purposes, the standing force having been augmented since the withdrawal of the military; and an extraordinary grant of 300*l.* was made to the retiring Speaker of the House of Assembly; but on the whole the expenditure, omitting the cholera charges of 1854, which were specially provided for in the estimates for 1855, cannot be said to have surpassed the average of former years.

8. The discrepancy then must be otherwise accounted for. I have had occasion more than once to direct attention to a habit which had been contracted by the legislature, not only of having recourse in unforeseen emergencies to the immigration fund, which had been accumulating for a considerable time without being applied to its primary object, but even to keep it in view when estimating ways and means or sanctioning expenditure. The existence of this reserve, and the convenience of drawing upon it, conduced, I am convinced, in no small degree to veil the unsound state of the finances from the observation of those who are entrusted with the initiation of all measures concerning them, and to postpone that revision of the revenual system of the colony by which alone they could have been placed on a firmer footing. It prevented for a time, and but for the unexpected cholera expenditure might have done so still longer, the outbreak of that general feeling of discontent and dismay which seized upon the members of the Assembly towards the close of the year, when the season arrived for framing the annual Supply Bill, and when it was discovered that the deficiency, which indeed had become periodical, was again there, but that the reserve, so habitually relied on for making it good, was no longer available, and that for the future it would be impossible to meet the current expenditure without raising a revenue really adequate to it. In fact, since the last draft upon it, the position of the fund in question had been entirely changed. In the interval an Act had been passed by which its accumulations had been saved from the possibility of future alienation, by being set apart for providing the interest and sinking fund of the loan of 7,000*l.* authorized to be raised under the guarantee of Great Britain for furthering immigration. It had always been evident to me that the labour market of the island would never be recruited by immigration till this was done; and as it was equally clear that it could not be done without dissipating in a short time the mists which obscured the real situation of its finances, I lost no opportunity of urging the adoption of preventive measures.

I thought, however, that if foresight should fail, as it did, to guard against the evil that was impending, I might safely rely on the patriotism, not to say the gratitude, of the planting interest at least, for whose especial benefit this rescue of the immigration fund had been achieved, to use their utmost endeavours to remedy it, when it arrived, in a just and equitable spirit. This expectation was not realized.

9. Such, I am persuaded, are the undeveloped resources of the island, that there would have been no difficulty in doing so had an administrative machinery existed, by which, after a careful and dispassionate consideration of the state of the country, and the changes which had been and were going on in it, a comprehensive scheme might have been prepared, and brought forward in such a shape as to have met and merited the approbation of all branches of the legislature. In the absence of such machinery, a number of undigested and conflicting plans were proposed by individual members of the Assembly; and the principal feature in the one ultimately adopted by the House was the imposition of a very heavy graduated income tax on all public officers, leaving all other professions, avocations, and employments entirely untouched. A principle so manifestly unjust in itself, so inconsistent with the enactments on the faith of which those officers hold their appointments, and several of which had but a short time before received the assent of the Crown, and so subversive of arrangements deliberately made, and professing to be of a permanent nature, was of course inadmissible. At the close of the year no Bill had been passed, the existing Act expired, and the finances of the island were left in complete confusion.

10. It is a peculiarity of the constitution of Grenada, and one the evil effects of which cannot but be apparent to every unbiassed mind capable of appreciating them, that such things as government measures are entirely unknown to it, and that matters of the highest importance to the country have consequently to be taken up, as best they may, on the motion of individual irresponsible members of the legislature. Should it so happen, as in the instance just referred to, that measures are thus brought forward, and partly carried, based upon principles to which no government, however composed, could possibly in conscience accede, the executive, under such circumstances, is at once put into the false and undignified position of having in one way or another to oppose, in Her Majesty's name, instead of governing and proposing in it; and on many occasions it is only extricated from this dilemma after the occurrence of a collision of longer or shorter duration between the two deliberative branches of the legislature; or, if this should be obviated, after that which ought to have been the result of previous administrative arrangement has been laboriously worked out by conferences between them.

11. This practice of holding conferences, in itself a somewhat awkward contrivance, has grown up from the necessities of the case. It is the only means by which, under present circumstances, the Legislative Council can, in its character of advising Council also of the Governor, serve as a connecting link between him and the Assembly, and by which the measures emanating from the latter can be brought into conformity with the tenor of the instructions furnished to him, and of imperial legislation and policy, and with sound and equitable principles of political economy, in points where, through inadvertence, want of information, or other causes less easily counteracted, they may be found to deviate from them. The Council, therefore, is obliged, contrary to its wishes, to appear in many instances to take a more prominent part in financial matters than is theoretically consistent with its position as a legislative body. If it acted otherwise, its only alternative would be to exercise its power of rejection, and thus to obstruct instead of forwarding the progress of legislation.

12. I should not allude in this report, having treated of it fully on other occasions, to the obvious remedy for this state of things, which has already been applied in other colonies similarly situated, and will ere long be resorted to in this, namely, the admission of members of the Assembly to the Executive Council, were it not that an idea seems to have gained ground that such a step must necessarily involve the adoption of the principle of government by party. If this were really so, I should be the last person in the world to advocate it, for I can conceive nothing that would be so fatal to the good government, peace, order, and prosperity of the island as any attempt to establish in it a system of administration for which the elements are so entirely wanting.

GRENADA.

13. That this is the case is shown pretty clearly by the fact that not the slightest desire for its introduction has ever been evinced in this colony in any quarter; but a little further consideration will fully demonstrate it. While no change has been made in the aggregate number of persons composing the Council and Assembly, the ranks of society from which they are drawn have undergone a material diminution, as I have already pointed out in reference to the decline of the customs duties. The Election Act passed in 1854 is calculated to facilitate entry into the lower House by the reduction it has made in the qualifications of members; but, notwithstanding this, at the general election held at the commencement of the present year, no more than thirty three candidates presented themselves for the twenty-six seats which had to be filled up, and of these one is since dead, and another was put up against his wishes. No doubt the seven rejected candidates were not the only remaining individuals in the island qualified according to the Act to become such; but upon the whole the House, as now constituted, represents very fairly the materials which exist in the colony for the formation of a legislature, and of political parties in it.

14. The twenty-six members of the Assembly may be thus divided:—

Planters	16
Merchants	7
Police magistrate	1
Acting stipendiary magistrate	1
Journalist	1

Of the merchants, one is also a planter, and one holds the small office of clerk to the St. George's market. The journalist is the contractor for the public printing. By the word planters, I mean persons occupied in the production of sugar, for all other agricultural interests are unrepresented. It must not be supposed, however, that these sixteen planters are all beneficially interested in estates as owners or even lessees, for though a clause introduced into the Election Act for admitting the attornies of absent proprietors, as such, into the House, was eventually struck out, they and managers also come in under another clause, which makes an income of 200*l.* a year from any source a sufficient qualification. Persons thus situated, whatever latent talents they may possess, have neither the leisure, the independent means, nor the inclination to give themselves up to political life. Even if there were any grounds on which they could be divided into parties having different interests to contend for, which is not the case, and it were consequently endeavoured to carry measures of public importance through the influence of this or that section of them, leaders having more time on their hands would necessarily have to be sought for out of their sphere and class. With qualifications for membership so low, and habitually but little scrutinized, the search for such would only have the effect of bringing into prominence that class of political adventurers and speculators who are found hanging about the skirts of society in all communities. In endeavouring by such means to remedy existing evils and inconveniences, the result could only be a worse disease in the body politic.

15. The very simple reform required is of an administrative and not a political nature. It affects the machinery by which, rather than the principles on which the government of the country is conducted. It is to put the Legislative Council and the Assembly on the same footing in respect to executive matters, by selecting from the two a privy council composed of their most enlightened, most just and upright, and most business-like members, and to enable the Government to take the initiative through them, in either House, not, as at present, in the shape of suggestive and argumentative messages only, which may or may not be listened to, understood, appreciated, and acted upon, but by legislative measures prepared and drafted after due deliberation in council, both as to their principles and details, and brought forward in an obligatory and responsible manner. For success in carrying its measures the Government would still have to depend on the same grounds it now relies on in regard to its messages and recommendations,—not, that is, on party influence or political manœuvering,—but on their intrinsic merits, which it will have gained the means of elucidating and explaining. The first step towards party government will thus have been made, and its adoption facilitated, whenever required; but nothing but disaster could ensue from an attempt to introduce it prematurely on mere speculative grounds, at a time when the materials for its exercise are entirely wanting, and the public voice has not demanded it.

16. It is in the more careful management of the finances of the island,—in the gradual and timely adaptation of its means to its requirements,—and in the prevention, consequently, of those periodical accesses of confusion and discontent which under the existing system, or want of system, must occur, that the advantages of the change will be most perceptible; but there is no subject likely to come within the scope of legislation on which the initiative of Government would not be beneficially felt. Mainly owing to the disabilities under which the executive now labours, and the insufficiency of the legislature to supply spontaneously the motive power required, many matters adverted to in my former Blue Book reports remain in the same position, or very nearly so, as when first I began to write upon the state and prospects of the colony. No less than twenty Acts were passed during last year, some of them of considerable importance, such as those relating to the roads, the re-organization of the police under the control of the executive, the establishment of a militia, the regulation of immigration and of certain public offices, and for the better administration of justice; but there is one point on which I regret to say scarcely any progress has yet been made, namely, the improvement of the educational institutions of the island. Towards the close of the year, however, I was requested by the Assembly to appoint a temporary inspector, to investigate and report upon the condition of all schools receiving public aid, with a view, as I hope, to future legislation on the subject. Mr. Samuel Cockburn, acting stipendiary magistrate, to whose able hands I entrusted this task, has just furnished me with a transcript of the report he has drawn up, which will be laid before the Council and Assembly on an early day. I am enabled, therefore, to append a copy of it to this Despatch.

17. In conclusion, I have the satisfaction of stating that at its first meeting in the present year the legislature expressed a willingness to take up the subject to which I have so often alluded, of providing increased gaol accommodation. I trust, therefore, that, so soon as the finances of the colony are restored to something like order, the means will be forthcoming for carrying out an improvement on which so much depends, and the necessity for which is becoming daily more and more apparent.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ROBERT W. KEATE.

His Excellency Governor Hincks,
&c. &c. &c.

REPORT of the INSPECTOR of SCHOOLS.

SIR, Grenada, April 22, 1856.

IN presenting to your Excellency my "Report on the several schools in this colony which are maintained wholly or in part by grants of public money," it may be necessary to bear in mind that my appointment took place about the end of the year, at rather an unfavourable season for inspection, as the schools are generally badly attended at that period of the year; and I felt, and at once represented to your Excellency, that one single inspection on a hasty tour through the island, which only the time would permit me to make, would not enable me to do justice to the subject, and your Excellency was pleased to concur in the suggestion, that I should continue till the year should expire, that I might have the advantage of the whole twelve months' returns from which to compile the statistical tables required, and be allowed more time to compare the progress of the children by repeated examinations.

In order to facilitate the work, I immediately issued a set of queries to the respective ministers and teachers, with a request that the answers should be returned to me as early after the turn of the year as possible; and in the meantime I proceeded to visit the several schools, and have continued my inspections from time to time to the present period. The pressing duties of the ministers during the Christmas holidays, and other circumstances, prevented them from completing the returns as soon as was expected; and even up to this moment some have not yet sent in any at all; but feeling I can no longer defer my report without considerable inconvenience to the public service, I am now constrained to lay before your Excellency the report from my own observations, deducing as just and fair conclusions as I am able to arrive at under the circumstances, without the complete series of returns which I had desired to obtain.

The annexed abstract, compiled from the materials at my command, will give a general view of the whole of the schools, the number of scholars, and the different branches taught, the progress of the pupils, the salaries of the teachers, and the total amount expended on the whole establishment.

GRENADA.

There are altogether thirty schools of different denominations, of which nineteen are of the Established Church, numbering - - - pupils 897
four of the Wesleyan Missionary Society - - „ 303
and seven of the Roman Catholic Church - „ 282

educating together - - 1,482 children, of which the average attendance is 1,069 daily throughout the year.

Religious instruction, reading, writing, and arithmetic, are taught in all, and the elements of geography, history, and grammar in several, under the superintendence of the respective clergymen: and upon the whole, considering the many difficulties they have to contend with, the pupils exhibit a fair amount of attainments.

But the points to which your Excellency particularly directed my attention were, "the nature and efficiency of the systems followed; the qualifications of the teachers; "the number and description of scholars; the hours and amount of daily attendance; "the fees paid weekly; the mode and proportion in which the grants are appropriated, "in salaries to teachers, rent of school buildings, purchase of books, stationery, &c., and "generally on the condition and state of all the schools that may come under my con-"sideration." I shall take these specific points seriatim, and afterwards give a particular account of each individual school.

1st. The nature and efficiency of the system followed.

Though some profess to adopt one plan and some another, there is no particular uniform method pursued in any of the schools, but a sort of mixture of the different systems in all, with modifications in each to suit peculiar circumstances or the predilections of the teacher or the minister. But the method is efficient enough for the purposes in view, if it were strictly carried out and persevered in. Where the supervision of the minister is lax, or the extent of his parish prevents him from visiting the schools as frequently as he could wish, and in consequence a great deal is left to the teacher, a degree of carelessness is evident, and the pupils do not exhibit that amount of improvement which they otherwise would. A great want of regularity and discipline is manifest; no proper register is kept of the ages of the children; and of the date when they enter or leave the school no record is preserved, and where any is kept at all it is in so defective and dilapidated a state as to be next to useless for obtaining the information necessary, in order to arrive at an estimate of the effectual working out of the system; so that I found it impossible to procure complete returns of school operations for even the last five years, and I am consequently forced to limit my observations in a great measure to the single year last expired. Some honourable exceptions there are, however, to this sweeping censure, which shall be pointed out when I come to speak of each individual school in the appendix.

2d. The qualifications of the teachers.

As a class, the teachers are sufficiently qualified for the work at present before them. Many, having had the experience of several years, are fully competent to instruct. All the ministers report favourably of their general conduct (with a few exceptions); and I can myself testify to their best exertions under the circumstances according to their ability. But they are deficient in energy and zeal; they want that love of the work for its own sake which would animate them with a missionary spirit, and a deeper interest in the success of their labours. The apathy of the community is infectious, and, whatever energy the teachers might formerly have exhibited, of late years a lamentable falling off is conspicuous. The status of the corps has not improved with the increasing wants of society, and hence in some measure the retrogradation of the schools. If the labouring classes are to progress in life, and the standard of education is to be raised, and a more extended system of instruction adopted, as sooner or later must be the case, then a higher class of teachers will certainly be necessary. At present the existing staff is sufficient, only so far as it prepares the way for a better one in the next generation. To simply give catechetical instruction, and teach spelling, reading, writing, and the first principles of arithmetic, does not require any great scholarship. It is the tact and talent to impart what little he knows that is the great desideratum in a teacher; and when we consider that several of them are eléves of these very establishments, and that the profession of pedagogy is not unfrequently adopted as a last resort when everything else has failed, the surprise is not that we number so few of the literati in the corps, but that so many are at all able to teach. Besides, the low salary they receive, and want of encouragement under which they labour, render it difficult to procure a successor when a vacancy occurs, and induce a lukewarmness in the work which acts with double effect on the pupils. Condemned to the drudgery of a most laborious employment, with a mere pittance of a salary, with no cheering prospect of rising in his profession or bettering his condition, and with hardly the countenance or sympathy of the public, the teacher is doomed to waste his energies frequently on a barren field, unaided, unnoticed, and unknown. Is it wonderful, then, that men of talent and education are unwilling to labour in the cause, and that of those who do, many, after years of ineffectual struggles in an enervating climate, failing in their efforts to reduce into beauteous shape or form the rude intractable materials they have to work upon, sink into apathy and indifference, and abandon at last the unprofitable labour in sheer disgust and utter disappointment.

3d. The number and description of the scholars, and the hours and amount of daily attendance.

The scholars are principally of the labouring classes, and range generally between the ages of five and fifteen years. In the infant schools they are younger; from four to ten. The total number of pupils in the 30 schools is, as already stated, 1,482, of which 958 are boys and 524 are girls, giving an average of only 32 boys and 17 girls, equal to 49 pupils to each school. An abstract of their ages in a tabular form, so far as could be ascertained, is given in the appendix, as well as a comparison with the school generation of the last census (1851), by which it appears that of 7,636 children, then between the ages of five and fifteen, only 1,482 are at present attending these public schools.

The hours of daily attendance are from nine in the morning to three in the afternoon, less one hour at noon for relaxation, making five hours per day, or 25 hours per week of five school days; and allowing 48 weeks to the year, one being discounted for vacation at Easter and three at Christmas, it gives 1,200 hours, equal to 100 days of 12 hours each during the year. But very few of the children avail themselves of the whole of this time. A great many attend only two days in the week, and several absent themselves for months together, and when they return they forget everything they had learned, and have to begin again de novo.

4th. The fees paid weekly, and the mode and proportion in which the grants are appropriated, in salaries to teachers, rent of school buildings, purchase of books, stationery, &c., and generally the condition and state of all the schools that may come under my consideration.

The fee charged in Grenada is generally 3*d.* per week, but in Carriacou it varies from 1½*d.* to 3*d.*, according to the branches taught. Little, however, of this fee is paid, and latterly it has dwindled away to almost nothing. The rigid exacting of it has been followed by the withdrawal of the children, so that in many schools it is abandoned altogether. The parents of the children are very reluctant to pay anything at all, either for the schooling, or for books, slates, stationery, &c., and are under the impression that they are relieved from all pecuniary contribution by the fact of the teacher receiving a public salary. In Carriacou, however, the fees are more willingly paid, though even there the children are often kept at home when the teacher presses for the weekly pence. It will be seen that only 50*l.* 2*s.* 10*d.* were collected altogether during the year 1855, of which a little more than a third (16*l.* 14*s.* 3*d.*) was paid at Carriacou.

The grants and donations for the last year were as follows:

	£ s.	£ s.
For the central schools:		
From the public chest	80 0	
From funds of the society	40 0	
		120 0
For the rector of St. George's parish:		
From the public chest	130 0	
From the Lieutenant Governor	9 0	
		139 0
For the rector of St. John and St. Mark		160 0
For the rector of St. Patrick		50 0
For the rector of St. Andrew and St. David:		
From the public chest	132 10	
From the Ladies Negro Education Society (for the St. Clement's school)	5 0	
		137 10
For the rector of Carriacou:		
From the public chest	80 0	
From the Lord Bishop of the diocese	25 0	
		105 0
		711 10
For the Wesleyan Missionary Society:		
From the public chest	180 0	
From the society's funds	50 0	
		230 0
For the Roman Catholic priest of St. George	30 0	
For the Roman Catholic priest of St. John	30 0	
For the Roman Catholic priest of St. Patrick	30 0	
For the Roman Catholic priest of St. Andrew	30 0	
For the Roman Catholic priest of St. David	30 0	
For the Roman Catholic priest of Carriacou	30 0	
		180 0
TOTAL		£1,121 0

GRENADA.

Which was appropriated in the following manner:			£ s.	
To the master of the central school			80 0	
To the matron of ditto			40 0	
				120 0
To the matron of the infant school St. George			25 0	
Rent of school-house for same			10 0	
To the matron of the Richmond Hill school			30 0	
To the matron of the St. Paul's school			35 0	
To the teachers of the St. Luke's school			30 0	
To the purchase of books, &c.			9 0	
				139 0
To the master of the St. John's boys' school			25 0	
To the matron of the St. John's girls' school			25 0	
To the matron of the St. John's infant school			30 0	
To the master of the Black Bay school			30 0	
To the teachers of the St. Mark's school			50 0	
				160 0
To the master of the St. Patrick's school				50 0
To the master of the Grenville school			40 0	
Rent of school-house			6 5	
Books, stationery, &c.			6 5	
To the teacher of the St. David's glebe school			40 0	
To the teacher of the St. Clement's school		£40 0		
Donation from the Ladies Society		5 0		
			45 0	
				137 10
To the master of the Hillsborough school		£30 0		
To the matron of ditto		15 0		
			45 0	
To the teacher of the Top Hill school			15 0	
To the teacher of the Harvey Vale school			15 0	
To the teacher of the glebe school			15 0	
			£90 0	
To half year of the Petit Martinique school, since closed			7 10	
To the balance divided between the other teachers, thus:—				
The first three 8$, each = 33s. 4d.		£5 0		
The other two 6$, each = 25s.		2 10		
			7 10	
				105 0
To the Wesleyan missionary schools:				
Teacher in town of St. George			70 0	
Do. do. Woburn, parish of St. George			46 0	
Do. do. Constantine, do.			41 0	
Do. do. Grenville			73 0	
				230 0
To the Roman Catholic school teachers:				
Teacher in town of St. George			30 0	
Do. parish of St. John			30 0	
Do. parish of St Patrick			30 0	
Do. parish of St. Andrew			30 0	
Do. parish of St. David			30 0	
Do. Carriacou			30 0	
				180 0
		TOTAL		£1,121 10

Expended for the education of 1,482 children, equal to about 15*s.* 1½*d.* per annum, or 1*s.* 1*d.* per head per month. Very little appears to have been spent for books, maps, and other school furniture, and accordingly the schools are sadly in want of these necessary appendages. Many of the ministers have from their own funds imported books, stationery, &c., with a view of selling them, at cost and charges, to the children, but very few were sold, and those sold were never paid for, and the rest, after remaining on hand for some time, were ultimately distributed to the children gratis. The schools are generally large and airy buildings, in fit and appropriate positions, but some are in want of repairs. Two only are rented; one in town of St. George at 10*l.* a year, and the other in Grenville Town at 6*l.* 5*s.* Four are given gratuitously; one at Beausejour, and three at Carriacou, which latter are all in a very bad state.

With respect to the condition of the schools, by which I understand their intellectual status, I feel bound to report that there is abundant room for improvement, although in all of them the children exhibit a creditable amount of proficiency according to their

ages and attendance. Most of them read fluently, but do not spell well. Some write pretty correctly from dictation, and in cyphering they understand well the rules they have passed. Their copybooks and cyphering books are clean and neatly kept; but too many are obliged to be confined to the slates, from the reluctance of the parents to supply stationery. They all excel in writing. Their intellect is good. Capacity, average fair, and many show an aptitude for learning; but the short time they are permitted to stay at school, and the irregularity of their attendance, prevent them from acquiring the full benefits which the institution is capable of affording. They seldom remain longer than two years (but some have stayed till five with evident advantage), when they are removed to learn some trade or handicraft, or assist their parents in agricultural labour. Some had advanced in arithmetic as far as practice before they left, while others (the majority) have been taken away before they had mastered the four elementary rules, or could read properly or write a fair hand. Children of all denominations are admitted to the schools indiscriminately; but on the extension of public grants to the Roman Catholic schools a great many of that persuasion left the Protestant schools, and the spirit of rivalry which arose caused a great fluctuation in the numbers, and several children have been known to attend the schools of every denomination during the short period of their probation. Nevertheless the number of schools and school attendance had greatly increased since the last report of a committee of the Honourable House of Assembly (in 1850), till the cholera came, and swept away its thousands, and thinned the ranks of all the schools.

The demand for agricultural labour also abstracts a great many children from the schools; and although an opinion is prevalent among certain parties that schooling renders the labourer unfit for tilling the soil, this does not seem to be borne out by facts, for it appears that a great majority do resort to agricultural pursuits after leaving school. True, they do not readily flock to the sugar estates to work, because, from a laudable ambition, they prefer to rent patches of land, and cultivate the minor products on their own account, with a view of eventually procuring their own independent homesteads; but this is not to be attributed to the influence of the schools solely; it is the natural aspiration after progress and advancement implanted by the Almighty Creator in the breast of every member of the human race, and it will manifest itself, and must ultimately prevail, in spite of every obstacle to prevent it.

I have before me a list of many who have undergone a training at these schools, whose advancement in a different sphere of life is satisfactory, and whose general conduct is creditable; and when reference is had to the comparatively temperate and orderly conduct of the labouring population, it must be conceded that the schools have had their share in shedding a moral influence over the minds of the existing generation.

Upon the whole, then, considering the disadvantages under which they laboured and do still labour, in a community the majority of which are unable from sheer ignorance to appreciate the benefits of intellectual cultivation, the schools have done their duty well; but circumstances loudly call for reform in the system, and improvement in the standard of instruction. Until the peasantry, however, be brought to know the value of education, and the community at large to take a greater interest in the subject, and thus become co-operators in the great and good work, in vain will be the best of teachers!—in vain all efforts of the legislature to promote the cause!

(Signed) J. COCKBURN.

His Excellency R. W. Keate, Lieut.-Governor,
&c. &c. &c.

GENERAL ABSTRACT of the REPORT of the INSPECTOR of SCHOOLS

Number of Reference.	Schools.	Number in Books.			Average Number in daily Attendance.			Bible Class.			Testament Class.			Minor Classes.									Writing Classes.						Arithmetic.					
														Reading Book of general Information.			Reading easy Narrative.			Letters and Mono-syllables.			In Books.			On Slates.			Compound Rules.			Simple Rules.		
		Boys.	Girls.	Total.	Boys.	Girls.	Total.	Boys.	Girls.	Total.	Boys.	Girls.	Total.	Boys.	Girls.	Total.	Boys.	Girls.	Total.	Boys.	Girls.	Total.	Boys.	Girls.	Total.	Boys.	Girls.	Total.	Boys.	Girls.	Total.	Boys.	Girls.	Total.
	TOWN OF ST. GEORGE.																																	
1	2 Central Schools -	70	59	129	42	39	81	13	12	25	10	11	21	.	.	.	15	12	27	32	24	56	20	12	32	12	33	45	9	.	9	9	12	21
2	1 Infants' School -	8	21	29	5	14	19	.	.	.	.	.	4	.	.	5	.	.	8	.	.	12	These Branches											
3	1 Wesleyan School -	76	25	101	48	14	62	24	9	33	23	2	25	12	5	17	11	3	14	6	7	12	48	12	60	25	7	32	21	.	21	32	12	44
4	1 Roman Catholic School.	28	23	51	29	20	49	.	.	.	2	4	6	.	.	.	10	5	15	16	14	30	2	3	5	7	7	14	.	.	.	2	4	6
	PARISH OF ST. GEORGE.																																	
5	1 Richmond Hill School.	14	16	30	9	12	21	.	.	6	.	.	5	.	.	4	.	.	4	.	.	15	No proper											
6	1 Saint Paul's School	6	16	23	4	11	15	.	.	.	.	4	4	.	.	.	3	6	9	3	6	9	2	4	6	.	.	.	.	.	.	2	4	6
7	1 Saint Luke's School	20	11	31	17	6	23	5	1	6	.	.	.	2	2	4	4	2	6	10	5	15	4	1	5	4	1	5	.	.	.	4	1	5
8	1 Constantine School (Wesleyan).	48	26	74	24	8	32	2	.	2	9	.	9	.	.	.	18	9	27	19	17	36	5	2	7	4	.	4	1	.	1	6	2	8
9	1 Woburn School (Wesleyan).	38	25	63	26	11	37	5	4	9	6	6	12	6	6	12	9	4	13	12	5	17	12	4	16	11	4	15	4	.	4	16	3	19
	PARISH OF ST. JOHN.																																	
10	2 St. John's Parochial Schools.	42	36	78	32	30	62	22	11	33	8	22	30	.	.	.	12	3	15	.	.	.	30	22	52	12	14	26	16	5	21	26	30	56
11	1 St. John's Infants' School.	49	49	98	44	42	86	.	.	.	7	10	17	1	11	12	10	15	25	31	13	44	.	.	.	7	10	17	.	.	.	.	.	.
12	1 Black Bay School -	18	10	28	12	9	21	.	.	.	6	4	10	.	.	.	4	2	6	8	4	12	3	2	5	5	3	8	.	.	.	2	2	4
13	1 Roman Catholic School.	28	6	34	18	6	24	.	.	.	6	.	6	.	.	.	6	6	12	16	.	16	6	.	6	.	.	.	.	.	.	6	.	6
	PARISH OF ST. MARK.																																	
14	1 St. Mark's Parochial School.	61	47	108	43	31	74	.	.	.	10	8	18	13	9	22	.	.	.	38	30	68	9	7	16	13	9	22	.	.	.	24	7	31
	PARISH OF ST. PATRICK.																																	
15	1 St. Patrick's Parochial School.	31	5	36	27	3	30	10	1	11	.	.	.	17	2	19	.	.	.	.	.	.	7	1	8	.	.	.	.	.	.	7	1	8
16	1 Roman Catholic School.	35	8	43	25	4	29	.	.	.	8	.	8	4	3	7	6	.	6	17	5	22	5	3	8	4	2	6	.	.	.	5	3	8
	PARISH OF ST. ANDREW.																																	
17	1 Grenville Parochial School.	31	6	37	26	5	31	.	.	7	.	.	.	.	.	4	.	.	4	.	.	4	In a temporary											
18	1 Wesleyan School -	57	8	65	46	4	50	10	.	10	8	.	8	.	.	.	39	8	47	.	.	.	14	.	14	.	.	.	.	.	.	18	.	18
19	1 Roman Catholic School.	41	4	45	25	2	27	2	2	4	8	.	8	4	.	4	10	2	12	17	.	17	8	.	8	6	.	6	2	.	2	4	.	4
	PARISH OF ST. DAVID.																																	
20	1 St. David's Glebe School.	10	8	18	8	6	14	.	.	.	6	2	8	.	.	.	4	4	8	.	2	2	6	.	6	.	4	4	.	.	.	6	2	8
21	1 St. Clement's School	20	6	26	19	4	23	12	3	15	.	.	.	8	3	11	.	.	.	.	.	.	13	1	14	.	.	.	13	1	14	9	5	14
22	1 Roman Catholic School.	23	.	26	20	.	20	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	11	.	11	15	.	15	5	.	5	3	.	3	.	.	.	.	.	.
23	1 Roman Catholic School.	19	21	40	15	18	33	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	12	10	22	7	11	18	6	.	6	10	5	15	.	.	.	.	.	.
	CARRIACOU.																																	
24	1 Parochial School -	41	23	64	37	12	49	16	8	24	.	.	.	.	.	.	9	7	16	16	8	24	16	8	24	18	9	27	7	.	7	18	9	27
25	1 Top Hill School -	28	9	35	20	7	27	6	1	7	4	.	4	.	.	.	12	4	16	4	4	8	5	.	5	4	4	8	.	.	.	5	.	5
26	1 Harvey Vale School	57	16	73	50	14	64	9	3	12	5	.	5	.	.	.	35	10	45	8	3	11	13	3	16	10	3	13	4	.	4	9	3	12
27	1 Glebe School -	32	23	55	25	15	40	5	.	5	4	2	6	.	.	.	6	1	7	17	20	37	4	1	5	4	1	5	.	.	.	4	.	4
28	1 Roman Catholic School.	26	17	43	18	17	35	4	2	6	8	2	10	4	5	9	2	1	3	8	7	15	8	.	8	4	1	5	1	.	1	5	3	8
	30 Total - -	958	524	1482	705	364	1069	145	57	215	138	77	224	71	46	130	248	114	378	300	184	515	251	86	337	163	117	280	78	6	84	219	103	322

in the ISLAND of GRENADA for the Year 1855.

Geography.			History.			Grammar.			Needle-work.	Catechism.			Rate of School Fees per Week.	Amount of Fees received per Annum.	Salary and Allowances per Annum.	Names of Teachers.	Number of Monitors.			Other Employments.	Remarks.
Boys.	Girls.	Total.	Boys.	Girls.	Total.	Boys.	Girls.	Total.	Girls.	Boys.	Girls.	Total.		£ s. d.	£ s. d.		Boys.	Girls.	Total.		
.	.	.	.	.	.	23	23	46	59	70	59	120	Nil.	Nil.	80 0 0 40 0 0	Alex. Purcell - Ht. Turnbull.	.	.	.	- - -	School buildings belong to the society for the education of the poor. Boys and girls in separate rooms. The matron has quarters in the premises rent free.
are not taught.									8	5	14	19	3d.	1 0 0	25 0 0	Sarah Bredin -	.	.	.	- - -	School-house rented by colony at 10l. The children from this school, as soon as sufficiently advanced, are drafted to the central school.
29	3	32	29	3	32	29	3	32	.	76	25	101	3d. & 4d.	9 5 9	70 0 0	J. A. Campbell -	4	2	6	- - -	Premises belong to the Wesleyan Missionary Society.
			No Return.						12	9	8	17	3d.	Nil.	30 0 0	J. T. Gomas -	.	.	.	- - -	Kept in premises rented by the master.
Return.									8	9	12	21	3d.	Nil.	30 0 0	E. A. M'Ewen -	.	.	.	- - -	In a house built by public subscription on lands granted by the proprietors for the purpose.
			No proper Return.						8	4	11	15	3d.	Nil.	35 0 0	E. M'Barnett -	.	.	.	- - -	St. Paul's Chapel at Perdmontemps.
4	1	5	4	1	5	4	1	5	11	20	11	31	Nil.	Nil.	30 0 0	James Fleming Jane S. Fleming	.	.	.	- - -	In a cottage lent by Messrs. Hankey of Beauséjour Estate, in part of which teachers reside rent free.
7	2	9	12	4	16	4	2	6	4	48	26	74	3d.	3 0 0	45 0 0	Philip J. Purcell Emily Purcell.	3	3	6	- - -	Constantine Chapel in the Grand Etang Road. Teachers residence close by, free.
6	2	8	9	6	15	5	2	7	5	26	11	37	3d.	2 10 0	46 5 0	A. H. Steill - Georgiana Steill	.	.	.	- - -	Woburn Chapel in the Coliviny Road. Teacher has a free residence near by.
23	19	42	.	.	.	6	19	25	36	42	36	78	1½d.&3d	0 16 0 4 2 6	25 0 0 25 0 0	Samuel Jones - S. S. Millard -	6	3	9	Parish clerk at 20l., and Vestry clerk, 4l.	The school is church property, built on part of the glebe, divided into two rooms for boys and girls.
.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	11	49	49	98	1½d.	2 0 0	30 0 0	Paulina Scott -	4	6	10	- - -	School held in the mistress' dwelling, rent of which, 15l., paid out of her salary.
			Now closed.						6	10	5	15	Nil.	Nil.	30 0 0	R. A. Garrett, assisted by wife.	2	2	4	- - -	A building on Black Bay Estate at public expense, but land granted by proprietor so long only as a school shall be held therein. Teacher resides under same roof, free. Closed at present.
			No Return.						.	28	6	34	3d.	Nil.	.	—— Best -	.	.	.	- - -	Kept in Roman Catholic Church, Gowyase.
11	7	18	.	.	.	.	2	2	16	61	47	108	.	.	50 0 0	Joseph Hosten - Margaret Hosten.	4	4	8	Parish clerk, 10l.	In Parish Church, Grandpauvre.
			No Return. Closed.						.	31	5	36	.	.	50 0 0	Henry Jas. Baker	.	.	.	Parish clerk at 20l.	This school is ecclesiastical property, in Sauteur Town, with quarters up stairs for teacher. Closed since November last.
			No Return.						.	35	8	43	.	.	30 0 0	M. J. De Coteau	.	.	.	- - -	Roman Catholic Church, Sauteur.
state of abeyance.									.	31	6	37	.	.	40 0 0	Miss Chapman -	.	.	.	Parish clerk, 20l.	In a house in Grenville Town, the rent of which, 6l. 5., is paid by public. Former master was parish clerk at 20l. At present in a state of abeyance, and only temporarily attended to by a matron.
			No Return.						.	57	8	65	3d.	9 3 0	75 0 0	A. H. Rapier -	.	.	.	- - -	School-house belongs to the society erected on lands granted by proprietor of Grand Bras Estate.
.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	41	4	45	.	Nil.	30 0 0	John B. Proten -	.	.	.	- - -	Roman Catholic Church, Grenville.
			No Return.						6	10	8	18	3d.	1 0 0	40 0 0	Mrs. Jones -	.	.	.	- - -	In a building erected by public on church lands, in which the teacher resides rent free.
.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	4	20	6	26	3d.	Nil.	40 0 0	Philip Palmer, assisted by wife.	.	.	.	Parish clerk at 15l., clerk to magistrates 30l., donation from Ladies' Society 5l.	St. Clement's Chapel, with teacher's residence attached, free.
			No Return.						.	26	.	26	Nil.	Nil.	15 0 0	Alex. Dubissett	.	.	.	- - -	In master's house on his estate.
			No Return.						14	19	21	40	.	.	15 0 0	Mrs. Bontemps -	.	.	.	- - -	In premises rented for the purpose by matron.
.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	10	41	23	64	2d. & 3d.	8 2 0	45 0 0	W. H. Nash - Barbara Nash.	4	4	8	- - -	In Hillsborough. Church property. Teachers reside therein rent free.
.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	26	9	35	2d. & 3d.	4 10 0	16 13 8	Joseph Modeste	2	1	3	- - -	Private property. Lent rent free.
.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	57	16	73	2d. & 3d.	2 5 0	15 17 6	Wm. Douglas -	3	1	4	- - -	Ditto ditto.
.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	32	23	55	2d. & 3d.	0 4 7	16 5 0	Cato Prime -	4	.	4	- - -	Ditto ditto.
.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	4d.	2 4 0	30 0 0	A. Veaucroon -	1	.	1	- - -	Kept part of the year in Roman Catholic Church, now in a house rented by the priest at 5l. per annum.
80	34	114	54	14	68	71	52	123	218	883	457	1340	.	50 2 10	1050 1 2		37	26	63		

GRENADA.

No. 16.

No. 16.

Copy of a DESPATCH from Governor HINCKS to the Right Honourable H. LABOUCHERE, M.P.

(No. 29.)

Windward Islands, Barbados, 7 July 1856.

(Received August 2, 1856.)

SIR,

WITH reference to my Despatch No. 18. of the 2d May last, forwarding a Despatch from Lieutenant Governor Keate containing his observations on the state and prospects of the Island of Grenada, I have now the honour to forward to you a Despatch from the Administrator of the Government forwarding the Blue Book of that colony for the year 1855, and supplying certain information which I called for in a Despatch I had addressed to the several Lieutenant Governors of the Islands in his Government, a copy of which I have the honour to transmit to you.

No. 55. 25 June 1856.

No. 19. 22 April 1856.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. HINCKS.

The Right Hon. H. Labouchere, M.P.
&c. &c. &c.

Encl. 1. in No. 16.

Enclosure 1. in No. 16.

(No. 19.)

Windward Islands, Barbados, April 22, 1856.

SIR,

As the time approaches when your Excellency will have to make your annual Report to accompany the Blue Book for 1855, I venture to suggest how desirable it is that it should be accompanied with as much statistical information as possible with reference to the state of the colony under your government.

2. In Grenada there is a large quantity of Crown land, and it would be important to have a statement of the quantity available, whether it is for sale to the public, and if so on what terms, and whether the custom of squatting prevails to any extent.

3. It is also very desirable to ascertain the employments of the Negro population not engaged in the culture of sugar, and whether they are acquiring property and of industrious habits, or, as is represented to be the case in some colonies, abandoned to slothful habits, and content with the mere necessaries of life.

4. You will probably be able to furnish information as to the number of sugar estates now in operation, as well as the number of acres in cane cultivation, and the number of labourers employed on the sugar estates, with the rates of wages, and whether the labourer is allowed a house and provision grounds, also the number of estates which have been abandoned, and the cause so far as it can be ascertained.

5. It would likewise be interesting to know the cost of sugar free on board at the port of shipping, classifying the various items of which the cost is made up, and also the freight, and various charges attending its sale. I will be prepared to give you reliable information of a similar kind from this island, where the cultivation is very profitably carried on.

6. It is stated by Governor Lord Harris, in his Despatch to the Secretary of State of 21 February 1848 forwarding the Trinidad Blue Book for 1847, that "it will be conceded "by all that an allowance of one person for two hogsheads of sugar (including the work of "men, women, and children) is amply sufficient, or rather that a population of 100 persons "is able to produce 200 hogsheads, and that the aged and sick may be included in that "number. It might be done with less; in fact, there are those who have assured me that "they can manage with the work of from 30 to 50 for 200 hogsheads."

7. I have no return before me showing what proportion of the 31,000 inhabitants of Grenada is engaged in agricultural pursuits. In Barbados I find that rather more than one fourth of the whole population is so employed, and it is evident that no children or people unable to work are included in the return.

8. If the statement of Lord Harris be correct, and if one fourth of the Grenada population be engaged in agricultural pursuits, then there ought to be a most ample supply of labour for the quantity of sugar which has been produced for some years back.

9. You will I have no doubt be good enough to consider this question in all its bearings, it being the one of the greatest practical importance, and especially in view of the general demand for imported labour.

10. You will likewise I am sure direct your attention to the exports of provisions. It is important that accurate returns should be made to the customs of the exports of all articles coming under this head.

11. It seems to me that as the export of sugar is falling off, while the great mass of the people are in the enjoyment of even greater comforts than formerly, there must be a considerable increase in the exports of other articles.

12. It is very desirable also to examine minutely the causes of the falling off in the import duties, and especially to point out the articles in which consumption has diminished.

13. I should suppose that it would be found that the importation of Indian meal and other articles of provisions had declined, owing to the increased production in the island of articles used as substitutes. Horses, mules, and oxen likewise, I should suppose, cannot be imported in such numbers as when the sugar cultivation was more prosperous.

14. If the information can be got, it would be desirable, in giving the number of estates in cultivation, to state whether the proprietors are resident or non-resident.

15. It would also be important to report the number of small properties, distinguishing those under one acre, one and under five, five and under ten, and over ten.

16. I have no doubt that most if not all of these subjects have occupied your attention. Some of them were adverted to in your last report, and in others information was promised. As, however, the substance of this despatch is intended for the other islands of this Government, I thought it better to notice the principal points in which there is often a deficiency of information.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. HINCKS.

The Lieutenant Governor of Grenada,
&c. &c. &c.

Enclosure 2. in No. 16.

Encl. 2. in No. 16.

(No. 55.)

SIR, Government House, Grenada, June 25th, 1856.

I HAVE the honour to forward your Excellency the Blue Book of this Government for 1855.

In anticipation of this document I observe that my predecessor has already reported on the condition and prospects of the island for the past year. It only remains for me, therefore, to supply, as far as I can, the information required by your despatch of the 22d of April last.

2. There is not so great a quantity of Crown land in Grenada as might be supposed from the primitive appearance of the country. In the year 1801, the date of the last authentic survey of the island, there were of 76,538, the total acreage of the island, little more than 2,000 acres ungranted. These lands, which still remain the property of the Crown, are situated in the centre of the island near the Grand Etang, are said to be unhealthy spots, and are consequently not sought after in a country where many more convenient and salubrious locations are to be had on terms equally favourable as could be offered by the Government.

There is no fixed or published statement of the terms on which this land would be assigned to individuals, but there would be no difficulty in making it available on the easiest terms to any one who might offer either as renter or purchaser.

As an instance of the facility with which land may now be had here, it has been mentioned to me that it has become a practice with the proprietors of some abandoned estates, and of others who have more or less recently betaken themselves to cocoa planting, to give almost any amount of land to the labourers rent free, on the conditions that cocoa is planted as soon as the land is cleared and ready for provisions, and that when the cocoa begins to bear, which is in about four years, the proprietor is at liberty to resume, in which case either an arrangement is made for the continued cultivation and reaping of the cocoa on the metairie or share system, or another piece of land is assigned to the labourer on the same terms as the first. In the finest part of the island cleared lands are rented for the cultivation of provisions on the most moderate terms, and to labourers on estates ground for their own use is unsparingly allotted as an inducement to even occasional work.

Under such circumstances it will not surprise your Excellency to learn that the Crown lands of Grenada are not in requisition, and that there is no squatting, and no temptation to squat on them, where the people have such abundant facilities for settling in healthier places, with readier means of transporting their produce to market.

3. With regard to the Negro population not engaged in the production of sugar, it appears that many whose previous employment on sugar estates had given them the means, have acquired property, generally restricted in extent, however, to the power of cultivation by one or two hands.

They principally confine themselves to the growth of provisions, though in some cases, in imitation of larger proprietors near them, they are beginning to grow cocoa, and when bordering on sugar works they not unfrequently plant canes. It is stated that these people are industrious in their way, and for themselves, and fond of money, which they hoard and hide. I am not able from experience to speak yet of their habits, but the impression that the negro is given to amassing and secreting his gains is not confined to Grenada. In Barbados particularly the belief prevails that a considerable amount of money is buried every week, and that vast quantities of coin lie hidden in the earth; but the opinion rests on mere surmise, while, on the other hand, we have the fact that for years together the weekly issue of silver for the wages of the labourers on the various estates in Barbados invariably found its way back to the Colonial Bank, under the most

GRENADA.

trifling deduction, within the next eight days, and through the hands of the country shopkeepers or the dry good merchants in Bridgetown.

As regards Grenada, your Excellency will observe that of the total value of the imports in 1855 considerably more than one half was of unenumerated articles, which comprise the linens, cottons, and other goods of British manufacture, the great bulk of them purchased by the peasant, and was nearly equal to the declared value of all the sugar exported from the island in the same period. It is worth remarking that the importation of what are called dry goods has declined in the same proportion with the staple produce.

If to the above amount we add the value of the salt fish and other articles of import wholly consumed by the negro, it must be inferred that, whatever may be said of their industry, there cannot be a very general indisposition to part with the money when got, or to indulge in somewhat more than the mere necessaries of life.

It will yet be said that cases of this concealment of money were developed during the cholera; but because we read occasionally in a provincial newspaper of the death of some unhappy man leaving large sums of money stowed away in old matresses and such places of concealment, nobody would think of putting down the English as a nation of misers.

4. The number of sugar estates now in cultivation is 75, at the commencement of the century the number was 122, between 1801 and 1848 about 30 estates were abandoned, and since 1848 some 15 or 17 more. Nine more are reported to be in a state of decadence and about to be abandoned.

The number of acres in canes has been returned to me at 5,880; but it will not be possible, and indeed for reasons which I will presently state it would answer no useful purpose, to inform your Excellency how many labourers are employed on the sugar estates. The rate of wages in St. Andrew and St. Patrick, the two chief sugar growing parishes, is from eightpence to a shilling a day; where eightpence is given a house is allowed, and as much land, rent-free, as the labourer chooses to cultivate.

No work is performed on any sugar plantation on the Saturday. The planters have endeavoured to establish as a rule that, provided the labourer will work during five successive weeks of five days of nine hours, he shall be allowed for himself every sixth week, and any quantity of land he may choose to cultivate, besides a house or cottage free of rent; but it cannot be said that the labourers have acquiesced in this arrangement.

Your Excellency inquires the causes which may have led to the abandonment of sugar estates. To say simply that it has been because they were no longer remunerative would scarcely convey a sufficient notion of the real state of the case. Some proprietors had neither the means nor the credit to enable them to carry on a losing concern, others having the means renounced further outlay where year after year there was no return. In several of these cases it is asserted that there was an absolute impossibility to obtain the requisite amount of labour except by an inordinate increase of wages which would soon have defeated itself. Of two adjoining estates belonging to the same proprietor one was abandoned that the labour of the people located on both might be concentrated on the remaining property. In the case of a property called the Palmiste, abandoned within the last few months, there was but a scanty supply of labour, the estate at best was not capable of making a great deal of sugar, the works required rebuilding, and the price of sugar in the home market was not such as to warrant the expense. Many estates have retrograded from the attempts to carry them on with insufficient means; the present year too it is said will prove a most severe trial for numbers of the planters. Your Excellency is aware that the practice of ratooning is carried on in Grenada on the same land for many successive years. The drought which has recently afflicted the island has in a number of places completely destroyed the cane, and many who have thus suffered can neither procure the labour nor plants necessary for their replacement; a quantity of the amount of land usually in cane will therefore be thrown out of cultivation this year.

The truth of the whole matter, however, is simply this: Here, as elsewhere, properties yielding a small amount of sugar rarely paid. The means and appliances for making 150 hogsheads were little more than were required to take off 100. If this rule held good in times when labour was under control and the prices of sugar were high, how much more must it operate in the present state of both the produce and the labour market. It has only been by largely extending his cultivation that the planter in any of these islands has been able to meet the altered condition of commerce and to keep his head above water. This as a whole Grenada has not been able to do, for, added to the difficulties with which she has had to contend principally from the dearth of hands, the cultivation of a sugar estate in this island is from natural causes most laborious and expensive.

5. With regard to the cost at which sugar is put on board of ship, and the expense of freight and charges on sale, your Excellency will see from the Despatch which my predecessor wrote to Sir William Colebrooke on the 22d September 1855 that there has been a difficulty in procuring reliable information. But I am happy to have it in my power to enclose a statement received only yesterday from the agent of the largest proprietor in Grenada of the expenses of working six estates in different parts of the island for several years back, and of the amount of their produce in sugar. I should observe that the outlay detailed in this document covered the expenses also of the rum made on each estate, which may be calculated at sixty gallons to every hogshead of sugar. The freight and expenses on the sale of each hogshead may be put down as nearly as possible at twenty shillings per

hundredweight, and the hogshead may be calculated on the average of sixteen hundredweight.

6. 7. 8. 9. In 1851 it was computed that the number of "field labourers" without comprising the sick and infirm and the unemployed children, amounted to 13,110, considerably more than one third of the population. But very few of these can be said to labour continuously on sugar properties. Most of them direct their principal attention to their own provision grounds, and give only an occasional day's labour to the sugar estate. Many never work at all except on their own little holdings. There are no data therefore to enable us to estimate the proportions of labour and produce in the manufacture of sugar.

The statement of Lord Harris to which your Excellency refers is evidently based on a system of steady and continuous labour, which does not exist here.

Still I transmit an estimate which has been formed of the labour required to cultivate an acre of land yielding two hogsheads of sugar, and which has been prepared by the same gentleman to whom I am indebted for the previous return.

10. The only provisions of the export of which returns are required to be made are yams. The official accounts show that the average quantity exported in the three last years is far below what it was in the three previous years. There is no doubt, however, that a quantity of this vegetable and of plantains and fruit are yearly carried away to Trinidad in small decked boats from the creeks and bays round the island, and quite beyond all Custom House control. The surplus, after supplying their own wants, is taken to market.

11. Of all the articles of export, after sugar and rum, cocoa occupies the most prominent place. It is in everybody's mouth. I have heard it insisted on at the Council table that cocoa is to save the island. How far the preparations for increasing the crop of this article have gone it is impossible for me to say, but the following memorandum of the quantity exported in the last six years shows no great nor gradual stride in its production.

1850	- - -	4882 Bags.
1851	- - - -	3921 ,,
1852	- - -	3877 ,,
1853	- - - -	4902 ,,
1854	- - -	5207 ,,
1855	- - - -	5069 ,,

There is a move reported too in the growth of spices. All the coffee produced in the island is consumed in it, and there is not one article of export, such as ground nuts, arrowroot, ginger, building lime, charcoal, firewood, which I can name to your Excellency as having recently much exceeded the average of former years.

12, 13. There has been, as your Excellency anticipates, a serious decrease in the importation of flour, cornmeal, and rice in the year 1855, as compared with previous years; but flour and other breadstuffs have during the war been nearly double their former prices; and the consumption of these articles and the introduction of cattle have been seriously affected by the withdrawal of the troops. I will take an early opportunity, however, of carrying these comparative statements back for a number of years, and of submitting them for your Excellency's examination.

14. Of the 75 estates now in operation 38 belong to absentee proprietors, 24 to residents, and 13 are cultivated by lessees.

15. There are no means on record of furnishing your Excellency with a return of the number of small proprietors here, but immediate attention will be given to the subject, and I have no doubt that we shall very soon be able to supply you with the information.

16. You will be good enough I am sure to excuse such a meagre answer to your despatch; but I am unwilling at this late period of the year to detain the Blue Book.

I have, &c.

(Signed) J. WALKER.

His Excellency Governor Hincks,
&c. &c. &c.

GRENADA.

TOTAL ANNUAL EXPENSES of the under-numbered ESTATES and CROPS shipped during Seven Years, from 1849 to 1855.

No. of Estates	Labour Wages Account.	Lumber and Stave Account.	European Supply.	Salary Account.	Incidental Account.	Total for the Year.	Sugar Shipment.	
No. 1.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	Hhds.	£ s. d.
1849	616 5 1	160 10 0	257 5 4	413 6 4½	128 4 4½	1,575 11 2	106	
1850	641 4 2	302 12 6½	287 14 7	469 3 3½	364 8 8½	2,065 3 3½	165	
1851	653 6 1½	278 15 1	417 9 1	508 17 2	218 0 0	2,076 7 5½	179	
1852	625 2 5	166 7 7	388 13 9	516 6 1	131 4 1	1,827 13 11	182	
1853	667 6 4	265 17 1	327 2 4	527 9 11	152 0 2	1,939 15 10	135	
1854	627 14 5	177 19 11	296 17 10	457 10 2	158 17 7	1,718 19 11	161	
1855	647 6 10	217 1 5	422 10 10	525 6 7	109 15 5½	1,922 1 1½	127	
						13,125 12 8½	1,055	12 9 7 per Hhd.
No. 2.								
1849	524 15 10	166 11 8	144 15 4	437 2 7½	121 3 5	1,394 8 10½	122	A new Iron water wheel paid for.
1850	538 10 10	188 10 0	228 18 2¼	452 6 6½	97 16 9	1,506 2 3¾	137	
1851	584 11 6	212 7 3½	297 12 7	492 10 10	135 4 3½	1,722 6 6	163	
1852	640 1 10	147 12 10	332 7 2	412 19 5	138 11 8	2,171 12 11	178	
1853	587 11 8	145 7 5	280 10 4	518 7 11½	74 14 7½	1,606 12 0	95	
1854	528 2 1	104 18 0	276 14 8	434 8 10	92 7 11½	1,436 11 6½	116	
1855	477 10 8	121 19 7½	275 11 2	426 6 8	87 2 3½	1,388 10 5	75	
						11,226 4 6¾	886	12 13 5 per Hhd.
No. 3.								
1849	446 18 0	98 15 10½	117 9 6	324 15 4	30 10 0	1,018 8 8½	57	A very laborious Estate.
1850	453 11 9	132 16 8	160 8 6½	381 13 8½	39 15 3	1,168 5 11	93	
1851	453 16 0½	100 1 2½	182 12 10	363 2 4	56 14 1½	1,156 6 6½	82	
1852	444 7 5	33 15 6	191 0 4	326 4 11½	42 4 2½	1,037 12 5	61	
1853	428 16 8	90 9 1	150 9 7	315 17 5	29 1 8	1,014 14 5	60	
1854	344 14 0¾	65 4 4	197 12 9	358 1 1	17 2 7	982 14 9¾	72	
1855	295 16 6	52 0 11	201 18 11	323 14 5	10 6 11	883 17 8	55	
						7,262 0 5¾	480	15 2 7 per Hhd.
No. 4.								
1849	852 2 7	191 14 5	199 6 2	629 13 8½	255 2 10½	2,127 19 9	133	A new Iron water wheel and a mill paid for.
1850	956 13 7	270 0 8	661 11 7	701 8 6	175 19 4	2,765 13 8	195	
1851	935 2 9	308 6 11½	366 6 6	761 17 11	124 2 11	2,495 17 0½	227	
1852	890 17 0	190 17 9	373 7 11	790 10 11	97 0 1	2,342 13 8	236	
1853	804 7 2	264 12 11	432 13 10	654 7 8	50 15 3	2,206 16 10	164	
1854	726 11 10	151 3 7	376 15 9	715 8 1	97 15 3	2,067 14 6	188	
1855	578 12 1	66 17 2	346 16 3	683 4 11	271 15 2	1,947 5 7	106	
						15,954 1 0½	1,249	12 15 0 per Hhd.
No. 5.								
1849	573 5 1	152 5 7	136 0 2	415 19 0	35 7 7	1,312 17 5	95	
1850	585 0 3	178 10 9½	187 6 11¼	451 14 9	100 12 7	1,503 5 3¾	112	
1851	642 7 11	161 13 0½	230 2 3	470 0 4½	75 17 4	1,580 0 11	146	
1852	694 2 9	60 10 9	316 15 9	443 14 8	24 13 8	1,539 17 7	112	
1853	663 8 1	221 3 6	186 6 8	422 7 3½	34 15 3½	1,528 0 10	111	
1854	605 1 3	92 9 1	256 0 10	378 16 0	107 13 9½	1,440 0 11½	99	
1855	571 8 2	104 8 10½	252 6 5	362 14 10	45 5 2	1,336 3 5½	82	
						10,240 6 5¾	757	13 10 6 per Hhd.
No. 6.								
1849	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	A new steam-engine and mill paid for.
1850	591 4 5	92 3 8	178 1 9	316 2 11	152 11 3	1,330 4 0	96	
1851	624 0 4	310 17 6	364 11 2	280 15 9	327 8 1½	1,907 12 10½	118	
1852	711 18 7	126 16 6½	430 11 9	337 2 4	145 15 11½	1,752 5 2	146	
1853	694 0 2	210 3 10	1,429 0 3	336 8 6	256 3 3	2,925 16 0	133	
1854	637 13 5	174 16 6	453 8 6	320 9 9	155 7 1½	1,741 15 2½	115	
1855	630 2 1	139 3 10½	459 16 7	328 17 5	92 16 1½	1,650 16 1	92	
						11,308 9 5	697	16 4 6 per Hhd.

Manual Labour required, according to the manner in which the Grenada first-class people generally work, to cultivate an acre of land, from four to six years in fallow, calculated to make 2 hhds. sugar, say 16 cwt. net at Queen's Beam.

		£	s.	d.
Clearing bush and burning same 20 days, at 10*d.* per day	-	0	16	8
Holing 5 × 4 feet 5 to 6 inches deep at 10*d.* per day	34 days	1	8	4
Cross holing same at 10*d.* per day	18 do.	0	15	0
Cutting and carrying plants and planting at 10*d.* per day	12 do.	0	10	0
Manuring, cutting, throwing, and covering pen manure at 10*d.*	75 do.	3	2	6
Weeding and supplying the young plants 1st time at 10*d.*	12 do.	0	10	0
2d weeding at 10*d.*	10 do.	0	8	4
3d weeding at 10*d.*	8 do.	0	6	8
4th weeding at 10*d.*	8 do.	0	6	8
5th trashing at 10*d.*	6 do.	0	5	0
	203 days	8	9	2
Cutting the canes at 10*d.*	22 do.	0	18	4
Carting to the mill at 10*d.*	10 do.	0	8	4
Manufacturing into sugar	22 do.	0	18	4
Total	257 days	10	14	2
Cost of 2 new hogsheads for sugar		1	14	0
Carting and shipping		0	2	0
Total		12	10	2

A hundredweight of Grenada sugar is subjected to the following charges in the London market as per account states:—

Duty 13*s.* 9*d.* at 15*s.* per cwt.
Freight 3*s.* 6*d.* at 4*s.* per cwt.
Insurance bkge. and other charges 2*s.* 6*d.* - £1 1 6.
On the average not under 19*s.* 6*d.* to 20*s.*

TOBAGO.

No. 17.

Copy of a DESPATCH from Governor Hincks to the Right Hon. H. Labouchere, M.P.

(No. 44.) Windward Islands, Barbados, July 7, 1856.

Sir, (Received August 2, 1856.)

In transmitting to you the Blue Book for Tobago for the year 1855, with the accompanying Report, it is with very great satisfaction that I bear my testimony to the services rendered by Lieutenant Governor Shortland in introducing into that colony an improved system of administration. No. 56. June 16, 1856.

2. The success which has attended the new system in Tobago affords convincing proof that, even in those colonies which are least populous, and apparently least able to cope with the difficulties caused by the abandonment of the sugar estates, owing to insolvency or non-residence, the wisest policy is to rely with confidence on the energy of the resident proprietor.

3. While I entertain no doubt that the development of the system of government introduced in Tobago will be attended with satisfactory results in any colony on which similar privileges may be conferred, it would be injustice to Lieutenant Governor Shortland not to acknowledge that the success which has attended his administration in Tobago has been owing in a great degree to his tact and judgment.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. HINCKS.

The Right Hon.
H. Labouchere, M.P.

TOBAGO.

Encl. in No. 17.

Enclosure in No. 17.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Lieutenant Governor SHORTLAND to Governor HINCKS.

(No. 56.)

SIR, Government House, June 16, 1856.

1. I HAVE the honour to forward to your Excellency the Blue Book for the year 1855, accompanied by the usual comparative abstracts of the principal returns.

2. It affords me much satisfaction to be able to take a more encouraging view of the prospects of this colony than circumstances have permitted on any former occasion. In my last Report I drew attention to some improvement in the organization of the departments, and to an Act which had been passed by this Legislature "for the better Government of the Island." To the success which has attended the operation of this law is to be attributed the improvement which has since arisen.

3. The state of things which existed before the new system was introduced ensured the perpetual discord which it has been the task of my predecessors and myself so continually to describe: each branch of the Legislature acting independently of the other, with an opposition in the House of Assembly jealous of the least exercise of executive power, however necessary, and able to venture on the expression of any opinions without the risk of being called on to give practical effect to them, it can readily be imagined that all useful or simultaneous action became impossible.

4. The appointment of an Executive Committee under the authority of the new law has tended to remove many of those hindrances to good government before found so difficult to surmount. It must not be expected that differences and conflicts will not arise again; I am led, however, to hope that their nature and objects will be changed. The position now held by the Governor will enable him to act a mediatory part between rival parties, and he will no longer be regarded the natural antagonist of all. In matters purely of an executive nature everything has proceeded favourably, and I see no reason to anticipate any interruption.

5. I will now offer a few observations on the various heads of service which appear to me to give occasion for remark, and especially on the subjects to which your Excellency has directed attention in your Despatch, No. 29, of the 22d of April last.

Value of Imports:
1854. 52,307*l.*
1855. 37,425*l.*

Decrease on the importation,—
Of wheat, 797 bush.
Of bread, 197 brls.
Of rice, 1,390 cwt.

Plantation stores and British goods, 9,741*l.*

6. Under the head of imports it will be seen that the value for the year 1855 shows a diminution on the previous year, amounting to 14,882*l.* The accompanying comparative statement will explain how this has arisen: it appears that the quantity of provisions imported became largely reduced, which may be accounted for partly by the falling off of the crop, but more particularly by the very abundant supply of ground provisions and Indian corn grown in the island. The supplies from England for the estates, too, were greatly diminished: this principally arose from the contracted operations of the absentee proprietors, to which I directed attention in my last Report.

7. The exports, which depend wholly on the sugar crop, also show a considerable reduction over former years—mainly attributable to an unfavourable season. The number of hogsheads of sugar shipped amounted to only 2,579. The deficiency will to a great extent be made up by the productive crop of this year, which is expected to reach 3,800 hogsheads.

8. In reply to your Excellency's inquiry respecting the exportation of provisions, I may remark, that they are not grown in sufficient quantities to form a regular export, nor do I believe they will so long as sugar culture continues to be more profitable.

Revenue:
1854. 8,014*l.*
1855. 8,581*l.*

Tariff duties:
1854. 3,729*l.*
1855. 3,509*l.*

9. The revenue returns show some improvement in the amount collected during the year 1855 over the collections of the previous year. Even the tariff duties, notwithstanding the reduced value of the imports, proved but slightly less productive. This may be accounted for by better collection, owing to the changes which were introduced into the organization of the Treasury department.

10. The management of all financial matters having now passed under the control of the Executive Committee, the causes which led to former monetary embarrassments have been mainly removed. The progress which has already been made encourages the hope that still further improvements will be as readily effected. With a view to secure an easy and equitable mode of raising an adequate revenue in future, an Act was lately passed by the Legislature which authorizes the preparation of valuation rolls of all lands and tenements in the respective parishes of the island, setting forth the names of the owners and occupiers, with the annual value of each holding. This arrangement will remove all difficulty in the adjustment of the annual taxes.

11. Several other laws have also been passed with the object of reducing public expenditure more within the means of the colony, to meet which the salaries of the public officers have been reduced, but at the same time placed on a more permanent footing. The gradual liquidation of the arrears due to them has also been provided for by the issue of Treasury bills, secured by statute, and made redeemable at fixed periods.

12. I enclose an estimate for the year 1856, and also a copy of the Report of the Financial Committee for the March quarter. It will be perceived, by comparing the estimated expenditure with that authorized by the House of Assembly for former years, that a considerable reduction has been effected. It will also be seen from the Report that the liabilities to be provided for on the 30th instant, above assets, are estimated not to exceed 419*l.* 17*s.*—a result even more favourable than I had been led to anticipate.

Estimate for 1856.

Report of Financial Committee.

Estimated Expenditure for 1856, 8,675*l.*

Expenditure authorized by law for the years,—

1853. 11,679*l.*
1854. 10,899*l.*
1855. 9,137*l.*

Estimated Liabilities on the 30th June 1856, 419*l.* 17*s*

13. Public works have made some progress. The military prison at Fort "King George" has been converted into a very excellent convict prison, at a moderate expense to the colony, a great proportion of the work having been executed by the prisoners. A Bill is now before the Legislative Houses to authorize the removal of the remaining prisoners confined in Scarborough Gaol to the military hospital, which now forms a portion of the prison lands and buildings. The necessary accommodation can be constructed from funds already appropriated, without any additional grant. These arrangements will effectually set at rest a question long the source of much contention between the Executive and the House of Assembly.

14. By an Act lately passed, courts of petty sessions have been established in the towns and districts of this island. It had long been the practice for the magistrates to hold courts in their private residences, at such times as each individual might think fit. The change appears to give universal satisfaction, and has removed a cause of much well-founded discontent. Another enactment authorizes appeals to the Chief Justice against decisions of the justices.

15. The enclosed comparative return, prepared by the Marshal, having reference to the state of crime in this community, may be taken as a fair indication that the late political improvement has acted beneficially on the moral condition of the people, although some portion of the great decrease of crime which is observable is to be attributed to superior gaol discipline, the prison being no longer considered an agreeable residence by the idle and dissolute. It will be seen that the number of convictions for higher offences during the year 1855 was considerably less than for the two former years, whilst the number for minor offences contrasts favourably. This year, up to the present time, the decrease is still greater, the commitments not having averaged more than seven in each month. On the 1st instant there were only seventeen prisoners under confinement in both the gaols.

No. of Prisoners confined in both gaols on the 1st June 1856:

Felons - -	14
Misdemeanor	1
Awaiting trial	1
Debtor -	1
	17

16. I enclose a copy of the Inspector's Report, describing the accommodation afforded by the new convict prison.

Report of Inspector of Prisons, 5th May 1856.

17. The unclaimed lands of this island, to which subject your Excellency has invited my particular attention, I beg to observe are of considerable extent: the exact quantity will be more readily ascertained when the parochial valuation rolls, now in course of preparation, are completed. It is then proposed to enact a law to declare all lands not set forth in the rolls, Crown lands, giving to absentees the power to redeem any lands to which they may prove to be entitled, upon payment of all rates due thereon.

TOBAGO.

18. In the present state of the colony, I do not think it would be advisable to offer these lands for sale; they are mostly very remote, and the market is sufficiently provided with lands belonging to absentee proprietors, situate in more eligible localities. It appears to me, every encouragement should be given the absentees to dispose of their lands to residents. Several estates have been sold within the last twelve months, and many others are said to be about to change owners.

19. The information which your Excellency desires respecting cultivated land will also be more correctly ascertained from the rolls. In the meantime, returns are enclosed of the number of estates under sugar cultivation, and of those at present used for growing provisions or depasturing cattle: of the former there are fifty-six; the latter amount to fourteen only. The quantity of land under cane cultivation is very limited, when considering the extent of the island. Three thousand acres, yielding about one hogshead of sugar for each acre, may be assumed as a fair average. The returns also give the names of the resident and non-resident proprietors. It cannot be said that any of the estates are altogether abandoned; I am aware of some which return a rental of 100*l.* a year from provision grounds. The home market is extremely well supplied with corn and ground provisions, and little is imported except on unusually dry seasons. The number of acres planted annually cannot be less than 5,000.

Acres, 5,000.

20. It is computed that the number of labourers engaged in agricultural pursuits amounts to at least 5,000; of these about 3,000 are employed in the culture of sugar. It is difficult to determine how many are employed for hire on sugar estates, but the number is quite equal to the present demand.

Labourers employed in agriculture, 5,000; employed in the production of sugar, 3,000.

21. The rate of wages to a prædial labourer attached to a sugar estate, when occupying a cottage and provision ground rent-free, is 8*d.* a day, and when without privileges, 9*d.* During crop, those who work extra at the mill can earn 1*s.* The second-class labourer receives from 6*d.* to 7*d.* a day; coopers, carpenters, and head men, 1*s.*

22. Your Excellency submits to me the question relative to the employment of the negro population not engaged in the culture of sugar,—"Whether they "are industrious, or, as represented to be the case in some colonies, abandoned "to slothful habits, and content with the mere necessaries of life." The negroes of this island cannot be termed slothful or abandoned; they bear the character of being orderly and well-disposed, and, I believe, deservedly so. The black and coloured classes have acquired a considerable amount of property. Many have raised themselves to the position of lessees of sugar estates, and a spirit of emulation seems to be on the increase. I am aware of offers having been made to proprietors by the negroes to rent estates, and to repair the works at their own cost; indeed, in one instance, three negroes have taken the lease of an abandoned sugar works, and have repaired both the mill and the boiling house. Several other instances might be adduced of equal enterprise. I am not, however, prepared to say that the negro, as a class, can be called industrious, in the true sense attached to the word. He is not fond of continuous labour; but when working for himself, taking the average of a year, performs a considerable quantity of work. When working for hire, he gives his employers the smallest quantity he finds will be submitted to. The struggle, too, never ceases; he must be constantly urged forward, or he would fail to work. Nevertheless, I am induced to extend to him a decided preference over all other labourers for general purposes in a tropical climate.

23. With respect to the question of a further supply of labour for this island, although it cannot be said that any want of labour is experienced, a small addition of Africans, periodically, would be decidedly beneficial.

24. I enclose some calculations of the cost of sugar cultivation, and of the quantity of sugar produced by each negro, taking a general average of every one employed on an estate. From one hogshead to one and a quarter would appear to be about a fair average on estates adequately supplied with labour. This is very much less than the averages given by Lord Harris, alluded to by your Excellency as the result on sugar estates in Trinidad. With respect to "the cost of sugar free on board at the port of shipping," I doubt the possibility of establishing any general rule that would apply in an island like

Tobago, where hardly two proprietors can be found who are conducting operations under circumstances precisely similar. The cost of a hogshead of sugar depends on so many contingencies; for instance, locality, the nature of the soil, the intelligence of the planter, and the capital at command, the season, and, lastly, whether he reside on his estate, or trust its cultivation to an agent. The calculations which I forward lead to the inference that sugar can be produced in this island, under ordinary circumstances, for about 9*l.* the hogshead of fifteen cwt., and I am inclined to believe that it is not usually made for less; indeed, I am given to understand that in the cases of non-residents the expenses usually absorb all the profits. Many years' observation of sugar cultivation in the West Indies leads me to the opinion, that sugar might be produced at a much cheaper rate. I do not think the cost should exceed, on an average, 8*l.* the hogshead, on estates possessing moderate advantages. Skill and capital, however, must be considered indispensable.

25. I enclose a letter from the Colonial Secretary, covering some memoranda prepared by Mr. Child, the Stipendiary Magistrate, and a Report from Mr. R. Rice, the Schoolmaster of the Scarborough School. It is much to be regretted that the exertions of this gentleman in the cause of education are neither appreciated nor supported as he deserves, or I had hoped for. An effort is being made to place the school in a more independent position, and I trust with good prospects of success.

Colonial Secretary, 5th June 1856.
Mr. Rice's Report, 29th May 1856.

I have, &c.

His Excellency the Governor-in-Chief, &c. &c.

(Signed) WILLOUGHBY SHORTLAND.

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT of the Value of Imports into the Island of Tobago in the Years 1854 and 1855.

	1854.			1855.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
British goods enumerated from Great Britain - -	14,862	19	10	8,440	10	0¼
„ „ „ British West Indies -	15,382	2	2½	12,068	16	0½
Foreign enumerated goods „ Great Britain - -	1,887	4	3	1,932	15	1½
„ „ „ British West Indies -	16,063	12	0	13,191	13	5½
Enumerated goods „ British West Indies -	1,556	13	5	1,791	8	4
„ „ „ United States - -	2,473	18	4	—		
Foreign States (Oxen) - - - - -	80	0	0	—		
	52,306	10	0½	37,425	2	11¾

The decrease in the value of imports in 1855, as compared with 1854, as shown above. is principally to be accounted for in the diminished trade with the United Kingdom The crop of 1855 having been considerably less than that of the previous year, induced a corresponding decrease in the imports of plantation stores and British manufactured goods, amounting to 9,741*l.* 16*s.*, from Great Britain and the British West Indies, and also had the effect of diminishing the importations of wheat flour by 797 barrels, bread 197 barrels, rice 1,390 cwt., salted beef and pork 175 barrels, and other articles of general consumption from the United States and the British West Indies. It appears there were no direct importations from the United States and Venezuela in 1855, whilst in 1854 the value of imports from those countries amounted to 2,853*l.* 18*s.* 4*d.* Thus the falling off in 1855 to the extent of 14,947*l.* is accounted for.

Fortunately, the very wet weather which prevailed in 1855 caused large crops of plantations and ground provisions to be grown, which made up for the deficiency of imported articles of food, and must have had the effect of preventing much suffering amongst the labouring population.

CHAS. A. BERKELEY, Treasurer.

TOBAGO.

ESTIMATED EXPENDITURE and RECEIPTS at Tobago for the Year 1856.

Expenditure.

	£	s.	d.
Ecclesiastical Establishment	1,160	0	0
Judicial „	800	0	0
Civil „	2,575	8	0
Police „	1,265	0	0
Gaol „	460	0	0
Educational „	160	0	0
Coroner's Inquests	75	0	0
Signal Station	10	0	0
Public Roads	450	0	0
Maintenance and Burial of Paupers	25	0	0
Public Buildings	100	0	0
Quarantine Service	20	0	0
Pensions	32	2	4
Miscellaneous	1,542	10	0
	8,675	0	4

Receipts.

	£	s.	d.
Tonnage and Lighthouse Dues	420	0	0
Tariff Duties	3,900	0	0
15 per cent. additional	450	0	0
Rum and Cocoanuts	250	0	0
Licences	1,400	0	0
Valuation Roll	2,000	0	0
Miscellaneous	300	0	0
	8,720	0	0

REPORT of the Executive Committee of Public Accounts on Receipts, Payments, and Estimates.

The Executive Committee have examined and audited the accounts of receipts and payments at the Treasury during the quarter ending at 31st March, and now lays before the Honourable Houses of Legislature a statement of such receipts and payments, and of the known and presumed liabilities to 30th June 1856.

From this statement it will be seen that at the 30th June, supposing the collections for the present quarter should realize the sum of 3,600*l.* as estimated, the colony will be in arrear the sum of 2,055*l.* 2*s.* 11*d.*, which, considering the heavy items in the accounts for the quarter's contingencies to 31st March (as audited by the Committee), shows a more favourable financial position than could reasonably have been expected. But even this sum of 2,055*l.* 2*s.* 11*d.* will not be in arrear to personal creditors of the public, inasmuch as that there is included in the said balance of 2,055*l.* 2*s.* 11*d.* the sum of 1,159*l.* 5*s.* 11*d.* for claims of the Loan Commissioners for warrants for 1854 and 1855, which are not immediately required, thus leaving a deficiency to personal creditors of 895*l.* 17*s.*, and this might be reduced by 476*l.* for Treasury bills, the issue whereof might be claimed by present holders of warrants, thus leaving only 419*l.* 17*s.* to be provided for at 30th June,—a financial position which is cause of congratulation to the Committee, who, by a strict supervision, and the enforcement of a rigid economy in the public expenditure, hope soon to see the revenue of this colony fully adequate to meet its necessary expenses.

JAMES HY. KEENS.
JAMES LEITH.
S. H. FREDERIC ABBOTT.

Executive Committee Room,
7th May 1856.

A true copy.
KAYE DOWLAND,
Colonial Secretary.

RETURN showing the Number of Persons committed to the Common Gaol of Scarborough during the Three Years ending 31st December 1855.

	Felonies, &c.		Minor Offences.		Debtors.		Totals.	
	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.
1853	21	3	154	15	8	—	183	18
1854	21	1	109	13	13	1	143	15
1855	7	—	92	18	6	4	105	22

NOTE.—In 1853, of the 21 males and 3 females under the head of Felonies, &c., only 16 males and 2 females were convicted. Of Minor Offences, out of 154 males 12 were discharged unconvicted.

In 1854 there were, out of the numbers given under the head Felonies, &c., 9 males and 1 female discharged unconvicted; and under the head Minor Offences, 3 males and 1 female discharged unconvicted.

In 1855 there were, out of the 7 committed for felony, 3 males discharged unconvicted; and of the males committed for minor offences, 2 discharged unconvicted.

RETURN showing the Number of Prisoners under Confinement on the 1st January 1853, and the Average Daily Number confined during each of the Four Quarters of the Years 1853–4–5.

Total number in gaol on 1st January 1853 - -	31
Average daily numbers in each quarter, 1853:	
Quarter ending 31st March - - -	33
„ 30th June - - - -	40
„ 30th September - - -	38
„ 31st December - - -	32
Average daily numbers in each quarter, 1854:	
Quarter ending 31st March - - -	41
„ 30th June - - - -	41
„ 30th September - - -	44
„ 31st December - - -	47
Average daily numbers in each quarter, 1855:	
Quarter ending 31st March - - -	48
„ 30th June - - -	42
„ 30th September - - -	39
„ 31st December - - -	35

NOTE.—On the 1st June of this year there were only 17 prisoners under confinement in both prisons: viz., felons, 14; misdemeanor, 1; debtor, 1; awaiting trial, 1.

(Signed) CHARLES J. LEPLASTRIER,
Pro MAR. GENERAL.

12th June 1856.

REPORT from W. A. CHILD, Inspector of Gaols, to Lieutenant Governor SHORTLAND.

SIR, Tobago, 5th May 1856.

IN accordance with the 11th clause of the Act "to convert the Military Prison and Cells at Fort King George into a Gaol," I have visited and inspected the said gaol.

I have to report that the military prison, but nothing beyond its walls, has been converted into a suitable convict gaol.

There are two sets of wards for the accommodation of convicts:

1. There are six "dark" wards built of brick, and intended, I presume, for separate imprisonment, but which are each capable of accommodating (as sleeping rooms) two prisoners. They are sufficiently lofty, and well ventilated. Their dimensions are—

	ft.	in.		ft.	in.
Ward No. 1.	10	9½	by	6	2
„ 2.	10	9½	×	6	2
„ 3.	10	9½	×	6	2
„ 4.	10	9½	×	7	2
„ 5.	10	9½	×	7	2
„ 6.	10	9½	×	7	2

2. There are three wards for associated convicts, which are constructed of wood; each of these can accommodate four persons. Their dimensions are—

	ft.		ft.	in.
No. 1.	11	×	8	9½
2.	11	×	8	9½
3.	11	×	8	9½

TOBAGO.

The prison, therefore, can easily accommodate twenty-two convicts, allowing one of the dark cells to be used as a temporary hospital; and in an emergency, perhaps five more convicts might be admitted.

I further report that there are ample covered sheds for hard labour within the walls of the gaol.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) W. A. CHILD,
Inspector of Gaols.

His Excellency
The Lieut.-Governor of Tobago.

RETURN showing Average Number of Labourers employed on an Estate in Tobago during the Crop Season of the Year 1856.

Crop from 95 to 100 hogsheads sugar (40 in truss).
„ 55 puncheons rum.
„ 20 puncheons molasses.

About the Works.			
Boilermen			4
Firemen at coppers		2	3
Fireman at clarifier		1	
Dry megass carriers to coppers		4	5
Dry megass carrier to clarifier		1	
Engineer			1
Engine fireman			1
Mill feeders			2
Cane carriers			4
Green megass carriers			4
Megass turner			1
Mill bed cleaner			1
Still fireman			1
Distillers			2
In the Field.			
1st gang.	Cutters		10
„	Tiers		4
„	Water carrier		1
„	Superintendent		1
2d gang.	Superintendent (occasionally employed as a jobber)		1
			46

In the Field.—cont.		
Brought forward		46
2d. gang.	Boys and girls variously employed drying megass, tending young plants, landing canes on hilly land, &c.	5
Jobbers.		
Employed in cutting fuel for the still		1
Variously employed		1
Watchmen		2
Stockkeepers (men and boys)		4
Chop-pickers and chop-chopper		6
		1
Cart boy		1
Cartermen		4
Leaders		2
Tradesmen carpenters employed occasionally at their work ramming and potting sugar, &c.		2
Coopers		2
		77

1¼ hogsheads per head may be taken as about an average.

ESTIMATE of Cost of producing Sugar on an Estate in Tobago making, on an average, 100 Hogsheads Sugar and 56 Puncheons Rum; Hogsheads 40 in truss, Rum 25 overproof.

Cultivation.—Partly level, partly hill sides and gullies, 95 acres in cultivation.
Stock.—10 mules, 20 oxen.
Works.—Steam-engine, condensing, six-horse power, making 2 hogsheads per diem.
Five sugar-pans, two clarifiers, capacity 300 gallons.
A Shear's patent still with three decks; works distant 400 yards from the shipping place.

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Labour for twelve months, including tradesmen's work of every description, at 56*l.* per month				672	0	0
Island supplies, including lumber and hard wood for cart wheels				40	0	0
Stores from Europe (including import duty)				360	0	0
Stock purchased, 3 oxen at 10*l.*; 1 mule at 25*l.*				58	0	0
Salaries:—Manager	100	0	0			
Attorney	50	0	0			
Overseer (a negro)	25	0	0			
Engineer	20	0	0			
Bookkeeper	12	10	0			
				207	10	0
Land Tax				26	0	0
Total cost of producing 100 hogsheads sugar and 50 puncheons rum				1,363	10	0
Deduct nett proceeds of rum, at 9*l.*				450	0	0
Cost of producing 100 hogsheads				913	10	0

Cost of producing each hogshead of sugar, 9*l.* 2*s.* 8¼*d.* Say the landing weight of each hogshead is 15 cwt., the cost of producing 1 cwt. sugar will be 12*s.* 1½*d.*

If new machinery were required, an additional outlay would be necessary.

There should also be added some charge for risk of damage by fire, hurricane, or earthquake.

Average number of persons employed during the year, 78, or 19 cwt. sugar and 71 gals. proof rum per head.

Note.—There are only five working days in the week, and nine working hours in each day.

Task is never given during crop, and not always out of crop.

ESTIMATE of the Cost of 1 Hogshead Sugar made on an Estate producing 60 Hogsheads of 40 inch truss, and a proportionate Quantity of Rum, say 20 Puncheons.

Cultivation.—Steep hill sides and deep gullies, 20 acres of plants, 20 acres of first rattoons, 20 acres of second rattoons.

Stock.—20 mules, 16 steers of the yoke, cows, young oxen, and calves; steers supplied by natural increase.

Works.—A mule mill, four sugar-pans, one clarifier with separate fire, capacity 300 gallons, a single goose-necked still; water laid on by a forcing pump; proprietor managing his own estate.

Cultivation.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Brushing one acre of land, heavy bush, 9 men, at 8*d.* the task of 1,200 square feet	0	6	0			
1 water-carrier, 6*d.*	0	0	6			
3 men burning bush and cleaning the land, at 8*d.* each	0	2	0			
Holeing 1 acre, 9 men, 3 days, at 8*d.* task 100 holes	0	18	0			
1 water-carrier for 3 days, at 6*d.*	0	1	6			
Cross holeing 1 acre, 3 women, 3 days, at 8*d.* the task of 300 cane holes	0	6	0			
Carrying out manure from field pens, 3 women, 3 days, at 8*d.* for the task of 300 baskets	0	6	0			
1 water-carrier, 3 days, at 6*d.*	0	1	6			
Cutting plants, 2 men, at 8*d.*	0	1	4			
Crooking plants, 1 man at 8*d.*	0	0	8			
Carting plants, 1 man at 8*d.*, 1 boy at 6*d.*	0	1	2			
Planting 1 acre or 2,722 cane holes 4×4, 3 women, 3 days, at 8*d.* the task of 300 holes	0	6	0			
First weeding, 3 women, 3 days, at 8*d.* the task	0	6	0			
Second weeding, 3 women, 3 days, at 8*d.* the task	0	6	0			
Third weeding and trashing, 3 women, 3 days, at 8*d.*	0	6	0			
20 acres of plants, at per acre	3	8	8			
				68	13	4
First weeding of 1 acre of first rattoons, 3 women, 3 days, at 8*d.* for the task of 300 holes	0	6	0			
Second weeding and levelling the banks, 3 women, 3 days, at 8*d.* for the task of 300 holes	0	6	0			
20 acres of first rattoons, at	0	12	0			
				12	0	
First weeding and moulding 1 acre of second rattoons, 3 women, 3 days, at 8*d.* task 300	0	6	0			
Second weeding, 5 women at 8*d.* task 544 holes	0	3	4			
20 acres of second rattoons, at per acre	0	9	4			
				9	6	8
Cutting off the Crop.						
Cutting canes for 1 hogshead potted sugar, taking an average of the yield from the land and from the canes, 6 men at 9*d.*, 3 women binders at 8*d.*	0	6	6			
1 water-carrier at 6*d.*, 2 crook boys at 8*d.*	0	1	10			
2 cartmen at 9*d.*, 2 boys at 6*d.*	0	2	6			
Cutting and carting canes for 70 hogsheads potted sugar, at	0	10	10			
				37	18	4

TOBAGO.

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Grinding the Canes.						
Grinding canes for 1 hogshead potted sugar, 1 day, 2 drivers at 1*s.*, 1 feeder at 9*d.*	0	2	9			
2 men handing canes, at 9*d.* each	0	1	6			
1 woman removing megass and binding it, 8*d.*	0	0	8			
2 women wet megass carriers, at 8*d.*	0	1	4			
Grinding canes for 70 hogsheads potted sugar, at	0	6	3			
				21	17	6
Manufacturing the Sugar.						
1 head boilerman at 1*s.*, 1 hogshead per diem	0	1	0			
1 second boilerman at 9*d.*, 1 clarifier at 9*d.*	0	1	6			
2 firemen at 9*d.*, 2 women dry megass carriers at 8*d.*, and 1 water carrier at 6*d.*	0	3	4			
Boiling and potting 70 hogsheads of sugar, at	0	5	10			
				20	8	4
Carting Produce and Stores.						
Carting 60 shipping hogsheads to the bay, two turns per diem, 2 cartmen, 30 days, at 8*d.* each	2	0	0			
Carting 20 puncheons rum, 2 cartmen, 5 days, at 8*d.* each	0	6	8			
Carting out stores, lumber, &c., out of crop, say 10 days, 2 cartmen at 8*d.* each	0	13	4			
				3	0	0
1 overseer at 40*l.* per annum	40	0	0			
His board, lodging, and washing	40	0	0			
1 superintendent, 365 days, at 1*s.* per diem	18	5	0			
1 groom, 365 days, at 1*s.* per diem	18	5	0			
2 jobbers, 261 days, at 8*d.* each	17	8	0			
1 head stock-keeper, 365 days, at 9*d.*	13	13	9			
1 pasture boy, 365 days, at 6*d.*	9	2	6			
2 pasture boys, 365 days, at 4*d.*	12	3	4			
1 cooper making 60 hogsheads from packs, 45 days, at 1*s.*	2	5	0			
„ making 20 puncheons from shooks, 20 days, at 1*s.*	1	0	0			
„ 20 days' extra work at vats heading, &c.	1	0	0			
4 grass-cutters for 313 days, at 6*d.* (employed) during crop time to collect and chop cane tops	31	6	0			
2 crook boys for 313 days, at 8*d.* each	20	17	4			
1 still-house woman, 100 days, at 8*d.*	3	6	8			
1 still-man, 100 days, at 8*d.*	3	6	8			
Carpenters', masons', millwrights', blacksmiths', and plumbers' labour, averaged at per annum	30	0	0			
				261	19	3
Stores and supplies, including hogshead packs, puncheons, shocks, wood hoops, iron hoops, nails, rivets, locks, w. p. boards, plank, scantling shingles, hard wood, iron wedges, building lime, temper lime, train oil, paint, oil, oats, oil-cake, mill-grease, salt, turpentine, cart and mule harness, rope bolts and rings, tallow candles, &c. &c. &c., average				200	0	0
Annual value or rent for which the estate might be let in gross, say				60	0	0
Land-tax on 60 acres of cultivated land, at 4*s.* per acre				12	0	0
Land-tax on 100 acres of land in pasture, &c., at 6*d.* per acre				2	10	0
Total cost of 60 hogsheads sugar and 20 puncheons of rum				709	13	5
Deduct nett proceeds of rum, as per account of sales				162	1	4
Total cost of producing 60 hogsheads of sugar				547	12	1
Cost of producing each hogshead sugar, 9*l.* 2*s.* 6¼*d.*						
Nett proceeds, as per account of sales, of 60 hogsheads sugar, or 858 cwts. at 40*s.*				858	0	0
Nett proceeds of rum, 20 puncheons, of strength 21°				162	1	4
				1,020	1	4
Cost of production				709	13	5
Profit when sugar is worth 14*l.* 18*s.* per hogshead, and rum worth 8*l.* 2*s.* 3¼*d.* per puncheon				310	7	11

Cost of producing one ton of sugar, 12*l.* 15*s.* 3½*d.*

NUMBER of Hands required to produce 858 cwts. of Sugar and 2,288 Gallons of Proof Rum.

Men.	Women.	Boys.	Girls.	Total.
25	20	5	2	52

or 16 cwt. 1 qr. 6 lbs. nett weights sugar and 44 gallons proof rum per head, or about one hogshead and one barrel for every man, woman, boy, and girl employed.

Notes.

The cost of the hogshead of sugar must always be affected by the price for which the rum is sold. If the men and women labourers can be got to work regularly, and to do more than the common tasks which in the preceding statement are set down as a day's work, of course fewer than 50 hands will suffice to produce the same results. But as the people do not work regularly, and although some will do more, many will do less than their task, and there are always some absent from their work, it is found practically that the number of names on the pay list is always greater than the number by whom the work might be performed by single task.

In the preceding estimate no allowance is made for the salary of a manager, who is not a necessary. He is in the place of the proprietor, who is supposed to live or starve upon the profits.

Nor is anything put down for lost time. This is about balanced by charging the brushing at the task of 1,200 square feet only, and for manuring the whole of the land opened with a basketful for each hole, whereas in practice not more than half the land to be cleared is in heavy bush, and not more than one basketful for every two holes is allowed in manuring—more or less of the land on every estate being planted without any manure at all.

Nor is any allowance made for casualties of any kind, because they are not fairly the subjects of such a calculation. They must be spread over a number of years, and are the risks of speculation and insurance.

Differences of season and soil are covered by the allowance of one hogshead for every acre of land in cultivation, that being the general average of production in this island, one year with another.

On an estate producing under 100 hogsheads of marketable sugar, difference of motive-power is of little consequence. Each kind has its advantages and disadvantages, which are pretty fairly balanced.

But the staff and incidental expenses of an estate which produces less than 100 hogsheads of sugar are nearly sufficient for the production of twice that quantity. Large estates are therefore conducted more economically, and sugar can be produced upon them at a smaller cost per hogshead than upon small estates.

In this island the average truss of a hogshead is 40 inches. In Trinidad the average truss is only 38 inches. Supposing that the same amount of labour is required there as here to produce a ton of sugar, the apparent quantity in casks will be considerably greater there than here.

LETTER from the Colonial Secretary to Lieutenant Governor SHORTLAND.

SIR, Tobago, Secretary's Office, June 5, 1856.

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Excellency the Blue Book for 1855, together with an abstract of the Blue Book Returns for the years 1853, 1854, and 1855, prepared in accordance with the instructions of his Excellency the Governor-in-Chief's Circular of the 7th March 1854; and also some memoranda submitted by the Stipendiary Magistrate, Mr. Child.

The information has been collected and collated with great care; nevertheless, I regret to say it has been impossible to arrive at some detailed information that is required to complete its columns. The book for next year will be more perfect, as the new Acts now being carried into effect (particularly the Act for the valuation of all lands and tenements) will afford several answers to statistical questions which parties now refuse to give.

As there is no law to compel the registration of births or deaths, it is difficult to ascertain to what extent the population is increasing, but that it is increasing in a large ratio is the general opinion. The return of the population by the last census (1851) gave 14,378 souls; that return was, however, considered inaccurate, and short of the number, and at this date the population is estimated to exceed 15,250 in number.

In the early part of the year several labourers, particularly carpenters, wheelwrights, and coopers, not being enabled to find employment in this island, resorted to other colonies; but the pressure of the times being equally felt elsewhere, the most of them have returned, so that their absence has only in a trifling degree affected the number of the population.

TOBAGO.

Mr. Robert G. Rice, under whose superintendence the Boys' School in Scarborough is placed, has submitted a report of his experience in the system of education he has adopted during the year 1855, and he hopes something of a more instructive character may be framed for the future. If his aim were carried out by the Legislature, I humbly conceive it would be of paramount importance to the colony; for, as it is, the youths of respectable parents are very much neglected for want of the advantages of a better and more enlarged scholastic education.

The sugar crop of 1855 is expected to realize 3,800 hogsheads of sugar, being an advance of 1,203 hogsheads over the produce of 1854.

The island exports nothing but sugar and rum, a few cocoanuts, and fuel.

With Mr. Rice's School Report I have also appended to this letter, for want of sufficient room in page 200, a return of the estates in sugar cultivation, and of those properties which are confined to the growth of provisions, or used for pasturage.

I have, &c.

His Excellency
The Lieutenant Governor.

(Signed) KAYE DOWLAND,
Colonial Secretary.

MEMORANDA relative to certain Paragraphs in the Governor-in-Chief's Despatch, Barbados, April 22d, 1856, in so far as regards the Leeward District chiefly.

Paragraph 2.
Crown lands.

I believe that very little Crown land, if any, remains unsold.

The area of Tobago is stated to be 104 square miles, or 66,560 acres. The earliest survey of the island, "in divisions," makes it only 61,408 acres. By the official Report of the Land Sale Commissioners (a printed copy of which is in the Secretary's office), it appears that between the years 1765 and 1771 there were sold by the Crown *57,408* acres, which realized in sterling money *154,408l. 19s.*, being an average of *2l.* 13*s.* 8*d.* per acre. The lowest average was in 1765 (1*l.* 0*s.* 1¾*d.*), and the highest in 1770 (*5l.* 17*s.* 7*d.*)

For many years after 1771 the whole of what is now the Leeward District (nearly one-half of the island), as also the entire windward sea-board, and even the dependency of Little Tobago, were under indigo, cotton, and sugar culture. Traces of long disused coast highways are still quite visible; and so late as 1818 the Road Act provided for the maintenance of a highway between Studley Park Bay across the island to Castara. In former days, some of the most extensive estates were situated on this line of road; and it was here that, in 1781, Lieutenant Governor Ferguson submitted to the French.

That conquest was the first check to the prosperity of Tobago. The Bank of Scotland refused to make farther advances to the settlers, who were chiefly Scotchmen. Ultimately, such estates as kept up their cultivation gradually fell into the hands of the home merchants; and the island is now what we find it.

Many years ago I proposed that a commission should be constituted to take charge of abandoned estates, with a view to colonise the beautiful and fertile valleys which are now lying waste.

Land is so easily obtainable that in this district there is no such thing as squatting.

Paragraph 3.
Employment and habits of negroes.

The fact that a great majority of the negro population—whether plantation labourers or otherwise—have, since emancipation, left the plantation negro houses, and acquired comfortable residences of their own elsewhere, may be taken as *primâ facie* evidence that they are industrious and saving. No man contented with the mere necessities of life will work, and save up money to buy a piece of land and erect a house, and pay the taxes to which he thereby subjects himself. I have been upwards of twenty years in Tobago, and I deny that its peasantry are abandoned to slothful habits. I assert, on the contrary, that a more industrious class does not exist in this world,—at least when working for themselves. I see no reason, either, for employers on estates to find fault. In the face of our taxation, "8*d.*" a day is not a very remunerative wage to labourers whose employers in Great Britain are comparatively untaxed for the produce which they extract from Tobago. Better wages would procure an increase of work. A minimum of wages naturally purchases a minimum in return, and prompts the peasantry to labour for themselves rather than for their employers.

See Supply Act for 1855.

(1.)

Paragraph 4.
Sugar estates: Absentee proprietors - 16 Resident proprietors - 5

In this district there are twenty-one sugar estates which depend almost entirely on hired labour; on every estate, however, there is also métayer cultivation, more or less.

Of these estates, six (6) belonging to absentee proprietors are for sale; one (1), also belonging to an absentee, has been very recently rented to a resident tenant; and another (1) shirran was sold by an absentee proprietor in 1854 to a resident owner for 600*l.* This estate, seventy years ago, borrowed money on life annuities in the London market to the amount of 10,000*l.* a year.

Tobago Register of Conveyances.

(2.)

We have seventeen sugar estates which are almost wholly cultivated under the métayer system; and such, till lately, were dependent on hired labour.

Of these, thirteen (13) are cultivated by the proprietors, and four (4) by renters.

Métayer cultivation is being rapidly extended where there is land and a plant, but a want of capital to hire labour. I think it will redeem the colony if proper laws are framed for its regulation.

Paragraph 5.
Cost of sugar.

From what I can learn, sugar, in ordinary cases, can be delivered at the port of embarkation for 15*s.* per cwt. Métayer cultivators, selling in the colony, are satisfied with this sum, although, of course, a rise in the home market will influence prices.

Paragraph 6.
Ratio of labourers to produce.

Lord Harris states that in Trinidad a population of 100 persons, young and old, is capable of producing 200 hogsheads of sugar. It may be so in Trinidad, where there is a large proportion of deep, rich alluvial soil, which ratoons for many years. Here it is not so. Many years ago I used to be told by the old slave planters that the estimated return was a hogshead for each plantation slave.

There can be no doubt, however, that we have a labouring population more than ample for our sugar exports. When these labourers finally come to work for themselves, or for others at remunerative wages, there will be a large increase in our staple exports.

Paragraphs 7 & 8.
Supply of labourers.

We have a sufficient supply of resident agricultural labourers, so far as regards plantations which are cultivated on the hiring system. I have repeatedly heard of managers refusing applications for service.

Paragraph 12.
Falling off of import duties.

In the latter end of 1854 and early part of the year 1855, many estates cultivated by hired labour were ordered by absentee proprietors to be abandoned on 1st August 1855. These directions were countermanded at the eleventh hour; but, nevertheless, they must have affected import orders from abroad.

Paragraph 14.
Resident and non-resident proprietors.

This I have noticed in answering paragraph 4.

Paragraph 15.
Small freeholds.

These are very numerous, from half an acre to one, two, or three acres. I cannot enumerate them; but they will shortly be reported by the land tax valuators.

(Signed) W. A. CHILD,
Stipendiary Magistrate,
Leeward District.

16th June 1856.

TOBAGO.

ABSTRACT RETURNS from Blue Book for 1853, 1854, and 1855.

Revenue.

Year.	Customs Duties.			Assessed and other Taxes.	Total.	Increase.	Decrease.
	Import.	Export.	Tonnage.				
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
1853	4,567	Nil	468	5,814	10,850	—	—
1854	3,729		271	4,014	8,014	—	2,836
1855	3,509		312	4,760	8,581	567	—

Expenditure, Colonial.

Year.	Civil Government.	Judicial.	Ecclesiastical.	Education.	Other Expenditure.	Total.	Increase.	Decrease.
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
1853	3,079	867	1,158	305	3,711	10,773	—	—
1854	2,529	607	722	337	1,803	8,014	—	2,759
1855	2,042	650	922	84	4,883	8,581	567	—

These Returns show only the actual sums paid from the public Treasury in each year.

Expenditure, Local and Parochial.

Nil.

Expenditure, Great Britain.

Year.	Civil.	Military.	Total.	Remarks.
	£	£	£	
1853	2,990	6,573	9,563	The troops were withdrawn from this island on the 16th January 1854.
1854	2,990	—	2,990	
1855	2,340	—	2,340	

Population.

Year.	Males.	Females.	Total.	Remarks.
1853	7,347	7,691	15,038	Out of this number there remained of Europeans on 31st December 1855—Males, 95; Females, 44: Total, 139.
1854	7,430	7,775	15,205	
1855	7,430	7,775	15,205	

Land.

Year.	Area in Square Miles.	Average under Cultivation.	Remarks.
1853	97 square miles, or 62,080 acres.	Estimated at 7,883	Canes, about 2,580 acres.
1854		„ 7,800	Occupied in provision grounds; cannot be ascertained.
1855		2,580 acres in canes	

Coins and Currency.

Year.	Specie in Circulation.	Notes in Circulation.	Remarks.
1853	Unknown.	Nil.	There is no bank in Tobago.
1854			
1855			

Churches.

Year.	Church of England.	Other Denominations.	No. of Sittings.	Average Attendance.	Centesimal Proportion to the Population.	Remarks.
1853	7	9	7,350	6,330	42·09	
1854	7	9	7,350	6,335	41·6	7 Wesleyans.
1855	7	9	7,350	6,335	41·6	3 Moravians.

Schools.

Year.	Church of England.	Other Denominations.	Total No. of Scholars.	Centesimal Proportion to the Population.	Remarks.
1853	459	1,263	1,822	12·1	Church of England 7
1854	443	1,485	1,928	12·6	Moravians - - 4
1855	377	1,514	1,891	12·4	Wesleyans - - 7

Imports. *Exports.*

	VALUE IN STERLING.				VALUE IN STERLING.			
Year.	From Great Britain.	From British Colonies.	From Foreign Countries.	Total.	To Great Britain.	To British. Colonies.	To Foreign Countries.	Total.
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
1853	22,488	24,624	5,885	52,997	55,200	971	Nil	56,171
1854	16,751	33,002	2,554	52,307	49,642	112		49,754
1855	10,373	25,195	1,792	37,360	44,794	2,593		47,387

Shipping.

	INWARDS.				OUTWARDS.			
Year.	From Great Britain.	From British Colonies.	From Foreign Countries.	Total.	To Great Britain.	To British Colonies.	To Foreign Countries.	Total.
	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.
1853	3,673	3,180	1,182	8,035	3,274	2,843	1,804	7,921
1854	2,913	2,490	424	5,827	2,913	2,490	424	5,827
1855	3,007	1,775	40	4,822	2,640	2,183	48	4,871

Copy of a REPORT from Mr. Robert G. Rice, Superintendent of the Scarborough Boys' School, to the Colonial Secretary.

Sir, Scarborough, May 29, 1856.

I beg to submit for the consideration of the Government the following Report of the Scarborough Boys' School during the past year.

I am, in the first place, happy to have to inform you that, notwithstanding the difficulties all have here encountered from the pecuniary embarrassments of the Colonial Treasury, and its consequent refusal for nine months of the year to pay the salaries of public officers, the school has gone on systematically and steadily, and its efficiency has been made sufficiently apparent by the progress of the boys who have been in attendance. I may here remark that the school is open to all classes of the community, the principles on which it is conducted not interfering with the conscientious scruples of any sect of Christians. No child is excluded from the advantages the school offers of affording a sound secular education, on account of its religious persuasion; nor is any compulsion exercised to secure the attendance of any boy during the hour daily devoted to religious instruction.

TOBAGO.

My experience during the past year amply corroborates a statement I made in my last Report respecting the great capability of the intellect of the negro for mental development.

Never during my employment in the work of education at home have I found more unwearied application, nor, considering the difficulties to be encountered, greater success in acquiring the rudiments of an education, than the boys here committed to my charge have exhibited.

I must remark on the apathy which pervades the community as to the interests of an efficient system of popular education. But, from the improved financial prospects of the colony, and the perseverance with which His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor continues to urge on the Legislature the necessity of some educational measures, I am not without hopes that education will shortly be placed on a more efficient footing than it has been heretofore.

I am informed the Executive Committee are actually engaged in considering the matter, and though, from the difficulties with which it is beset, much may not be done in the first instance, yet the discussion which must ensue may be the means of enlightening the public mind on this important subject.

In reality, the depth of ignorance in which the majority of the people is sunk calls aloud for the benevolent interference of the statesman philanthropist.

In conclusion, I beg to subjoin the following statement of school statistics during the past year:—

Number of pupils in attendance - - - 86
Daily average attendance - - - 43
Payment of pupils per month, and in advance, 1*s.*
Total amount received from pupils during the year, 31*l.* 10*s.*

The teacher's salary is composed of the following items:—

	£	*s.*	*d.*
Grant from the Colonial Treasury - -	60	0	0
From other sources - - - -	50	0	0
	110	0	0

In addition to the above, the teacher has during the year realized 18*l.* from a special class in the school, making his income 128*l.*

The boys composing this class belong to the more respectable inhabitants, and receive special instruction from the master.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) ROBERT G. RICE.

The Colonial Secretary,
&c. &c.

The NUMBER of PLANTATIONS in each PARISH cultivating SUGAR.

Parish.	Name of Estate.	Size of Estate in Acres.	Quantity of Acres in Cane Cultivation.	Name of Proprietor.	Whether Proprietor resident or not.	Whether under Métayer System or not.
St. John	Charlotte Ville	596	73	Sir H. Stewart	Absent.	
	Spey Side	1,030	5	Colonel J. Gordon	Absent.	
St. Paul	King's Bay	247	50	Mrs. Innis	Absent.	
	Betsey's Hope	872	130	Heirs of Robley	Absent.	
	Roxborough	965	85	P. M. Stewart	Absent.	
	Invera	200	35	Robert Gordon	Resident.	
	Kendal Place	516	40	John and James Leith	Resident.	
	Belle Garden	220	18	Heirs of Hall	Absent.	
St. Mary	Richmond	1,400	55	Heirs of Robley	Absent.	
	Glamorgan	270	40	Ditto	Absent.	
	Pembroke	189	25	James Ewing	Absent, but leased.	
	Goldsborough	580	70	Heirs of Robley	Absent.	
	Unity	198	60	James Ewing	Absent.	
	Lure	500	15	D. Yeates	Resident	Métayer system.
	Greenhill	1,000	40	Heirs of Morrison	Absent.	
St. George	Studley Park	630	50	Mrs. Brooke	Absent.	
	Hope	995	71	Heirs of Francklyn	Absent.	
	Cradley	500	10	James Cunningham	Absent, but leased	Métayer system.
	Concordia	215	15	F. C. Keens	Resident, but leased	Métayer system.
	Belmont	700	65	Geo. Warden	Absent.	
	Bacolet	787	56	Heirs of J. Gordon	Absent.	
	Nutmeg Grove	885	40	Melville and Allom	Resident	Métayer system.
	Mount St. George	180	10	Mrs. Brasnell	Absent, but leased.	
St. Andrew	Calder Hall	102	12	Wm. Pinheiro	Resident	Métayer system.
	Burleigh Castle	670	80	Heirs of Balfour	Absent.	
	Auchenskeoch	569	130	C. D. Kerr	Absent.	
	Riseland	360	60	J. H. Hamilton	Absent.	
	Lowlands	713	13	Mrs. Piggott	Absent.	
	Mont Pelier	360	50	James Cunningham	Absent.	

The Number of Plantations in each Parish cultivating Sugar—*continued.*

Parish.	Name of Estate.	Size of Estate in Acres.	Quantity of Acres in Cane Cultivation.	Name of Proprietor.	Whether Proprietor resident or not.	Whether under Métayer System or not.
St. Patrick	Courland	600	30	Ellice Kinnear & Co.	Absent.	
	Orange Valley	521	60	Sir H. Willock	Absent.	
	Prospect			Ellice Kinnear & Co.	Absent.	
	Grafton	285	20	Heirs of J. Gordon	Absent.	
	Mount Irvine	541	102	Lord Douglas	Absent.	
	Grange, New	249	80	Heirs of Gordon	Absent.	
	Grange, Old	247	60	Ditto	Absent.	
	Bonaccord	500	50	Ellice Kinnear & Co.	Absent.	
	Shirvan	400	72	A. Hunt	Resident.	
	Kilgwyn	215	62	N. S. Chauncey	Absent	Lately purchased by a resident.
	Golden Grove and Friendship	780	80	Heirs of Robley	Absent.	
	Buccoo	416	90	Lord Douglas	Absent.	
St. David	Lower Quarter	284	18	Dr. Richards	Absent, but leased.	
	Mary's Hill	306	20	Wm. K. Martin	Absent	Métayer system.
	Orange Hill	300	80	Heirs of Balfour	Absent.	
	Amity Hope	300		Ditto	Absent.	
	Whim	400	30	J. Hamilton	Absent, but leased	Principallymétayer.
	Providence	270	18	J. Ewing	Absent, but leased	Ditto.
	Francklyn	279	8	G. M'Gregor	Resident	Métayer system.
	Les Coteaux	500	60	Heirs of Morrison	Absent	Principallymétayer.
	Adventure	288	68	Hen. R. Gordon	Resident.	
	Acnoes Vale	475	20	Heirs of J. Kitson	Resident.	
	Castara	580	35	Ad. Ferguson	Absent	Métayer system.
	Runnemede	1,390	40	James Ewing	Absent.	
	Indian Walk	351	62	J. Hamilton	Absent	Lately purchased by a resident.
	Woodlands	430	60	Hon. J. Kirk	Resident.	
	Culloden	384	22	Benj. Alleyne	Resident	Métayer system.
	Golden Lane	200	60	Heirs of Morrison	Absent	Métayer system.

The Number of Estates in each Parish on which Provisions are cultivated, or which may be used as Pasture for the rearing of Stock.

Parish.	Name of Estate.	Size of Estate in Acres.	Quantity in Cultivation, and Kind.	Name of Proprietor.	Whether Proprietor resident in the Island or not.
St. John	Hermitage	290	Provisions	John and Jas. Leith	Resident.
	Observatory	450	Do.	P. M. Stewart	Absent.
	Trois Riviers	315	Do.	Col. J. Gordon	Absent.
	Merchiston	600	Do.	Heirs of Napier	Absent.
	Delaford	400	Do.	Proprietors unknown. In the possession of labourers.	
St. Paul	Argyle	335	Do.	Rob. Gordon	Resident.
St. Mary	Goodwood	500	Do.	J. Robley	Absent.
	Montrose	426	Pasture	Hon. E. Ellice	Absent.
St. David	Craig Hall	199	Provisions	E. D. Sanderson	Resident.
	Dunvegan	155	Do.	Ditto.	Resident.
	Englishman's Bay	600	Do.	Ad. Ferguson	Absent.
St. George	Adelphi	495	Do.	Kaye Dowland	Resident.
	Friendsfield	500	Do.	Heirs of J. Kitson	Resident.
St. Andrew	Lambeau	200	Do.	Heirs of Stewart	Resident.
	Carnbee	100	Do.	Heirs of Gaine and others.	Absent.
	Crompston	300	Pasture	Heirs of Baillie and others.	Absent.

ST. VINCENT.

No. 18.

ST. VINCENT.

No. 18.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor HINCKS to the Right Hon. H. LABOUCHERE.

(No. 29.)

Windward Islands, Barbados, May 2, 1856.

SIR, (Received June 5, 1856.)

Enclosure 2, Blue Book sent separate.

No. 50, 18th April 1856, with four enclosures.

I HAVE the honour to transmit the St. Vincent Blue Book for 1855, together with Lieut.-Governor Eyre's accompanying Despatch and various enclosures, on which it is unnecessary that I should offer any remarks.

I have, &c.

The Right Hon. H. Labouchere, M.P., &c. &c. &c.

(Signed) F. HINCKS.

Enclosure 1. in No. 18.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Lieut.-Governor EYRE to Governor HINCKS.

(No. 50.)

SIR, Government House, St. Vincent, April 18, 1856.

Abstract returns from Blue Book (in duplicate).

St. Vincent Produce returns, 1855.

Statistics of Kingstown Police Courts (in duplicate).

Return of Public Debt, 1st Jan. 1855 (in duplicate).

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Excellency, in duplicate, the Blue Book for St. Vincent for the year ending 31st December 1855, together with the usual abstract returns compiled from it, also in duplicate.

2. The contents of the present volume will disclose the great falling off in the staple productions of the colony, which I anticipated when forwarding the Blue Book for 1854; but I am happy to say the prospects of the colony are now again somewhat improved, that I believe the greatest period of depression has already passed, and that I hope the returns for the current and succeeding years will show a gradual but certain increase upon those now forwarded for 1855.

3. Since my last annual report some advance has been made in the reduction of the public debt, in the establishment of a more legitimate appropriation of the public funds, and towards a better adjustment of the revenue and expenditure.

That more has not been done is ascribable to the unsuitability of the existing form of constitution to the present state of St. Vincent, a subject to which I particularly called attention in my annual report for 1854.

4. Efforts have been made during the past year to introduce, through the local legislature, a modification in the form of government, so as to obviate the inconvenience and evils which could not but be patent to all.

The, perhaps not unnatural, jealousy and suspicion with which all proposed changes are looked upon by the popular branch prevented any measure of reform being carried in 1855, but I am happy to say that during the current year a most necessary and useful Act has been passed creating an Executive Council of ten, to be composed of five members of the Legislative Council and five members of the House of Assembly, in lieu of the existing Privy Council, which consists exclusively of members of the Legislative Council.

This Act only awaits the Royal assent to come into immediate operation, and I anticipate from it many most useful results, and especially a more expeditious, a more vigorous, and a more satisfactory executive administration.

I fully expect too that this measure will before long be followed by another creating an executive committee of three political officers (one from the Upper House and two from the Lower), upon whom will devolve the responsibility of initiating all government measures on the system at present in operation in Jamaica, and thus the administration will be popularized and responsible government established, as far as such is practicable, in the present condition of the West Indies.

5. I proceed to comment briefly upon some of the more important subjects comprehended in the Blue Book.

Revenue and Expenditure.

The total revenue of 1855 (17,228*l.* 11*s.* 11*d.*) is less than that of 1854 (20,247*l.* 10*s.* 3*d.*) by 3,018*l.* 18*s.* 4*d.*

The falling off in the duties on imports has been very great (2,786*l.* 11*s.* 3*d.*), owing to the diminished consumption consequent upon the removal of the troops, the abandonment of estates, and the reduced circumstances of the colonists.

The decrease of imports has also correspondingly reduced the receipts from tonnage dues.

On the other hand an increase has taken place in the receipts from duties on rum, from judicial fines, and from some few other and new sources (as a tax on incomes and horses, mules, cattle, &c.), but no loan has been had by sale of treasury notes, as was the case in 1854.

The total expenditure of 1855 (17,312*l.* 3*s.*) is less than that of 1854 (20,853*l.* 4*s.* 10*d.*) by 3,541*l.* 1*s.* 10*d.*

The decrease of expenditure has arisen chiefly from there having been no cholera or quarantine expenses in 1855, and from the low state of the treasury funds not admitting of the full amount of the usual payments being made to the hospital, to schools, to roads, &c.

At the same time an increased expenditure has been provided for on account of police, magistrates courts, and large arrears of 1854 have been paid off in the shape of outstanding treasury notes and unpaid public accounts.

Public Debt.

As was the case in 1854, so now the statement under the head of public debt does not show the total actual liabilities of the colony at the close of 1855.

A separate return on this subject, accompanying my Blue Book Report for 1854, showed the actual debt of the colony on the 1st January 1855 to be 7,132*l.* 8*s.* 3*d.*, a corresponding return now transmitted makes the actual debt of the colony on the 1st January 1856, 5,921*l.* 12*s.* 8*d.*; thus exhibiting, after taking into account all the liabilities of the year, a positive reduction of 1,210*l.* 15*s.* 7*d.* during the twelve months, which, considering the great diminution of revenue during the same period from that of former years, is as satisfactory a result as could have been expected.

Public Works.

No public works of any kind have been undertaken during the year, excepting the expenditure of 825*l.* on the roads.

Legislation.

Eighteen acts have been passed during the year 1855; of these, two have been Tax Acts, one increasing the import duties under which 256*l.* 10*s.* 4*d.* was raised, and one imposing a tax upon incomes, animals, &c., under which 702*l.* 4*s.* 8*d.* was raised.

The other most important Acts have been the renewal of an Act regulating the sales of wines and spirits, the passing of an Act for enforcing church discipline, chiefly in accordance with the wishes of the Lord Bishop of Barbados, of an Act for the improvement of criminal justice and for assimilating the colonial law on this subject to that of England, of Acts for amending the police Acts to admit of that force being better organized, and of Acts for the appropriation of the public revenue for the year.

These last-mentioned enactments constitute an important step in the right direction, and I trust that having once adopted the legitimate and constitutional mode of appropriating the public revenue by an annual appropriation Act, the local legislature will always adopt a similar course in future.

Political Franchise

Is the same as last year. In entering the statistics under this heading a mistake has been made and the details given of a general election which took place in January 1856, instead of the last general election prior to the

ST. VINCENT.

31st December 1855, to which period the Blue Book is made up. The error gives an opportunity of contrasting the present state of the colony in reference to such details with that which existed at the previous general election in January 1853. In the latter year there were only 293 registered electors and 130 voters. In January 1856, there were 636 registered electors and 211 voters, thus showing that during the last three years there has been a considerable increase in the interest taken in their powers and privileges by the electors; but even now the very small number of 211 voters, by whom the whole nineteen members of the House of Assembly have been returned, is a vrey insignificant fraction of the whole population, supposed to be upwards of 30,000.

Councils and Assembly

Remain unaltered in their constitution, but the new law recently passed will shortly effect a very great change by abolishing the existing Privy Council, which consists exclusively of members of the Legislative Council, and substituting for it an Executive Council of ten, composed of five members of the Legislative Council, and five members of the House of Assembly.

Civil Establishment.

Very similar to that of the previous year.

Population.

No census since 1851, and that a very inaccurate one; no immigration or emigration of any importance during the year. The colony has been free from epidemics, and only the usual average of mortality has taken place.

Education.

Although from circumstances the colonial revenue has not been in a position to provide the full amount of the usual payments on account of education, the returns show that the private schools have still for the most part been kept up without state support, and that there have been nearly the same number of scholars receiving instruction as during 1854.

During the current year it is hoped that a more adequate support to the various schools may be given from the public funds.

Imports and Exports.

The total amount of imports in 1855 (112,493*l.*) shows a decrease upon 1854 (145,772*l.*) of 33,279*l.*

The decrease has been chiefly in the importation of cattle, horses, mules, butter, guano, timber, &c. &c., and unenumerated articles, but more especially in the latter, where the decrease has been no less than 37,890*l.*

On the other hand, there has been an increased importation of beer, candles, cordage, grain, and meal, fish, hardware, &c., &c.

The total amount of exports in 1855 (101,912*l.*) shows a decrease upon 1854 (176,797*l.*) of the very large amount of 74,885*l.*

This great falling off is due to the diminished production of the staple exports of the colony. In sugar this diminution amounts to 57,253*l.*, in rum and shrub to 8,557*l.*, in molasses to 2,011*l.*, in arrowroot to 3,695*l.* There has also been a diminished re-exportation of articles imported into the colony to the value of 3,371*l.*

It is a remarkable fact connected with the West India trade, that whilst the Blue Book returns show that nearly the whole of the exports from St. Vincent are to Great Britain, either directly or indirectly through some of the other West Indian islands, yet the larger part of the imports into the colony, indeed fully three fifths, are from North America, the United States or other foreign states, and only about two fifths from Great Britain.

Produce grown in the Colony.

A comparison of the abstract return given at page 201 of the Blue Book, and compiled from the sworn returns of the managers and overseers of estates of the produce manufactured in the colony in 1855, with the corresponding

return given in the Blue Book for 1854, exhibits a decrease in the production of sugar to the amount of 4,070,284 lbs. weight, of rum to the amount of 37,425 gallons, of molasses to the amount of 23,281 gallons, of cotton to the amount of 13,655 lbs. weight, but an increase in the manufacture of arrowroot to the amount of 64,781 lbs. weight.

This last is clearly an error, as the value of the arrowroot exported in 1855 has already been shown to have been less by 3,695*l.* than the value of the arrowroot exported in 1854. The mistake I have no doubt exists in the returns for 1854, and has probably arisen from an arithmetical error in making out in pounds weight the abstract of the produce returns for 1854, and which ought to have shown a greater number of pounds of arrowroot than the returns for 1855.

I enclose a return of the details from which the abstract of the produce returns is made up.

State of Crime.

I have had appended to the Blue Book two comparative returns containing an abstract of all commitments for trial before the Court of Grand Sessions, with a statement of the offences, and the result of the trials for the years 1854 and 1855, and an abstract for the same two years of all prisoners sent to the Kingstown Gaol under sentences from magistrates, with a statement of the offences for which they were imprisoned.

The general result of this comparison is favourable, as there is decidedly a decrease in the more serious offences; and although the commitments for trial before the supreme court have been very nearly the same as last year, the actual convictions have been one third less.

From the magistrates' courts there have been rather more commitments to gaol than during 1854, but chiefly for offences of a minor character, as drunkenness, breach of contract, &c. &c.

In connexion with the statistics of crime I transmit herewith an elaborate and interesting return, compiled by the police magistrate Crosby, of the result of his administration as police magistrate of Kingstown, from the 18th May 1844 to the 31st December 1855, from which it appears that a very great decrease has taken place in the number of cases brought before his court between the first and last years of his administration.

6. Having reported fully last year upon the general state of the colony and the working of its existing institutions I have little further to add in my present report.

The change which will take place under the operation of the new executive council act will probably be effected by the end of June, and thus an opportunity be afforded of testing its utility during the latter half of the current year.

I am not aware whether the other portion of this system which creates a paid executive committee answers all the expectations which were formed of it when first introduced at Jamaica, but I understand from your Excellency that it is working well at Tobago.

With such encouragement I purpose trying to get it introduced at St. Vincent as soon as the new executive council shall be fairly at work.

7. I omitted to notice in its proper order that no report upon the state of Government House in this colony has been appended to the present volume, in consequence of my having recently forwarded such full reports upon the subject in my despatches No. 117. of the 18th September 1855, and No. 26. of the 17th March 1856.

I have, &c.

His Excellency the Governor-in-Chief, Barbados.

(Signed) E. EYRE.

ST. VINCENT.

ABSTRACT RETURNS from "BLUE BOOKS," 1853, 1854, 1855.

Revenue.

Year.	Customs Duties.			Assessed and other Taxes.	Total.	Increase.	Decrease.
	Import.	Export.	Tonnage.				
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
1853 -	7,779	—	1,354	8,177	17,310	2,920	—
1854 -	10,719	—	1,381	5,076	17,176	—	134
1855 -	8,189	—	1,171	5,097	14,457	—	2,719

Expenditure, Colonial.

Year.	Civil Government.	Judicial.	Ecclesiastical.	Education.	Police.	Prisons.	Other Expenditure.	Total.	Increase.	Decrease.
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
1853 -	2,221	1,832	2,810	962	1,475	773	5,588	15,661	709	—
1854 -	2,357	2,966	2,444	903	1,934	980	6,196	17,780	2,119	—
1855 -	2,383	3,481	2,472	152	1,676	933	3,441	14,538	—	3,242

Expenditure, Local and Parochial.

No Parochial Taxes raised in this island. The expenses for "Poor" and "Roads" are included in "Expenditure, Colonial."

Expenditure, Great Britain.

Year.	Civil.	Military.	Total.	Remarks.
	£	£	£	
1853 -	3,070	8,803	11,873	In January 1854 the troops were withdrawn from this colony. The sum of 284*l.* 7*s.* 4½*d.* was paid to military pensioners.
1854 -	3,070	—	3,070	
1855 -	2,770	—	2,770	

Population (Estimated).

Year.	Males.	Females.	Total.	Remarks.
1853 -	13,957	16,171	30,128	No census taken since the 30th June 1851.
1854 -				
1855 -				

Land.

No means of ascertaining.

Coins and Currency.

The notes of the Colonial Bank are in circulation. No means of ascertaining the amount.

Churches.

Year.	Church of England.	Other Denominations.	Number of Sittings Church of England.	Number of Sittings other Denominations.	Average Attendance Church of England.	Average Attendance other Denominations.	Centesimal Proportion to the Population.
1853	15	—	4,542	—	2,955	—	The average returns of attendance at the several churches and chapels in this island cannot be relied upon; as a consequence any centesimal proportion would be fictitious.
1854	19	16	4,847	—	2,860	—	
1855	18	16	4,582	9,760	2,705	—	

Schools.

Year.	Church of England.	Other Denominations.	Number of Scholars.	Centesimal Proportion to the Population.	Remarks.
1853	1,229	748	1,977	6·59	
1854	1,338	362	1,700	5·64	
1855	658	895	1,553	5·17	

IMPORTS AND EXPORTS.

Value in Sterling.

Year.	Imports.				Exports.			
	From Great Britain.	From British Colonies.	From Foreign Countries.	Total.	To Great Britain.	To British Colonies.	To Foreign Countries.	Total.
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
1853	71,084	44,296	43,463	158,843	176,617	21,022	1,181	198,820
1854	63,313	47,106	35,353	145,772	158,750	17,608	439	176,797
1855	43,536	50,088	18,869	112,493	86,947	14,376	589	101,912

Shipping.

Year.	Inwards, Tonnage.				Outwards, Tonnage.			
	From Great Britain.	From British Colonies.	From Foreign Countries.	Total.	To Great Britain.	To British Colonies.	To Foreign Countries.	Total.
1853	7,069	14,175	5,506	26,750	9,460	10,708	6,336	26,504
1854	6,620	10,853	4,013	21,486	8,930	9,218	4,770	22,918
1855	5,213	7,970	1,536	14,719	6,219	8,166	2,686	17,071

Return of Crimes and Offences.

Year.	Felons.	Misdemeanors.	Other Offences.	Total.	Increase.	Decrease.	Centesimal Proportion.	Debtors.
1853	14	69	31	114	—	84	·38	11
1854	32	57	46	135	21	—	·45	51
1855	34	105	30	231	96	—	·77	62

1855.—COLONY OF ST. VINCENT.

No. 1.

RETURN, in a Tabular Form, for the last Year in which they can be made up, of the Gross Revenue under their different Heads, exhibiting the Cost of Collection and every Deduction made in their Progress to the Public Treasury.

GROSS REVENUE.

Customs.	Tonnage Dues.	Taxes and Excise.	Fines and Forfeitures.	Fees of Office.	Lighthouse Dues.	Land and Casual and Territorial.	Canals and Public Works.	Immigrant Tax.	Interest.	Miscellaneous Receipts.	Gross Amount of Revenue.	Cost of Collection.
£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.							£ s. d.	£ s. d.	
8,189 7 11	1,171 10 0	4,363 10 2	648 3 1	—	—	—	—	—	—	86 0 9	14,558 11 11	—

No. 2.

RETURN, in a Tabular Form, for the last Year in which they can be made up, of the Disbursements under their different Heads, showing the Authority under which such Disbursements were made.

EXPENDITURE.

Civil Establishment.	Judicial Establishment.	Ecclesiastical Establishment.	Education.	Pensions.	Police.	Gaols.	Roads.	Expenses of the Legislature.	Hospital.	Revenue Department and Drawbacks.	Miscellaneous.	Total.	Authority.
£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	
*410 19 8½	3,481 3 9	2,472 10 3	152 16 3	52 15 7	1,676 19 5½	933 11 9	825 0 0	*526 5 10	100 0 0	*1,446 11 3	†2,463 9 2½	14,542 3 0½	The whole paid under the Appropriation Acts for 1855, besides which there are separate Acts for many of the payments.

* On reference to the "Blue Book," page 36, the above sums are all included, and are under the head "Civil, Legislative, and Revenue," and "Drawbacks," amounting to 2,383*l.* 16*s.* 9½*d.* By this return each department is separated.

† The sum under this head "Miscellaneous" was paid as follows :—

	£ s. d.
Treasury Notes	818 15 5
Tax Act	35 0 0
Public accounts	1,414 14 3
Miscellaneous	32 17 4
Repairs of public buildings	0 17 8
Printing, stationery, &c.	161 4 6½
	2,463 9 2½

RETURN showing AMOUNT paid to MILITARY PENSIONERS since the DUTY devolved on the COLONIAL TREASURER, to the 31st December 1855.

NAMES.	Period of Payment.	Remarks.	Rate of Pension per Diem.	Amount.
BLACK OUT-PENSIONERS OF CHELSEA HOSPITAL.				
			s. d.	*£ s. d.*
Thomas Abeall -	From 1st March to 9th July 1854	Dead - -	0 10	5 9 2
John Baptiste - -	Do. to 11th Sept. 1855	Dead - -	0 5	12 3 4
Richard Chacha -	Do. to 31st Dec. 1855	- - -	0 10	26 13 4
Thomas Codd - -	Do. do.	- - -	0 5	13 6 8
Coleman - -	Do. to 18th Apr. 1854	Dead - -	—	1 0 5
Doe - - - -	Do. to 31st Dec. 1855	- - -	0 8	21 6 8
*Prince Edward -	Do. do.	- - -	0 11	31 8 0
William Filgate -	Do. to 30th June 1855	Pension expired	0 2½	5 0 5½
Pierre François -	Do. to 31st Dec. 1855	- - -	0 5	13 6 8
Thomas Henry - -	Do. to 19th Sept. 1854	Dead - -	—	4 4 7
John Hill - -	Do. to 31st Dec. 1855	- - -	0 7	18 13 4
Robert Hughes -	Do. do.	- - -	0 3½	8 6 8
Thomas Kennedy -	Do. do.	- - -	0 5	13 6 8
Richard M'Cree -	Do. to 31st Mar. 1855	Pension expired	0 1½	2 9 6
John Milling - -	Do. to 15th Feb. 1855	Dead - -	0 3½	5 2 8
Moses - -	From 1st Feb. to 16th Dec. 1854	Dead - -	0 5	6 12 11
Neville - -	From 1st March to 31st Dec. 1855	- - -	0 5	13 6 8
John Sequah - -	Do. do.	- - -	0 7½	20 0 0
				221 17 8½
WHITE OUT-PENSIONERS OF CHELSEA HOSPITAL.				
Serjeant James Corner	From 1st Apr. 1854 to 31st Dec. 1855	- - -	1 8	53 6 8
Serjeant William Bean	Do. to 30th Sept. 1854	Left for Barbados	1 0	9 3 0
				62 9 8
			£	284 7 4½

* Prince Edward, besides his pension from 1st March 1854 to 31st December 1855, received by direction of the Commissariat at Barbados 2*l.* 1*s.* 4*d.*, being balance of an old amount due to him. This is included in the sum set opposite his name.

Treasury, St. Vincent, 1st January 1856.

(Signed) J. M. GRANT,
Treasurer.

RETURN of Produce manufactured in the several Parishes and Grenadines during the Year 1855.

CHARLOTTE PARISH.

	Sugar.			Puncheons of Rum.	Puncheons of Molasses.	Pounds of Sugar.	Gallons of Rum.	Gallons of Molasses.	Pounds of Arrowroot.	Acres of Land.	Number of Labourers.
	Hogsheads.	Tierces.	Barrels.								
Adelphi, Upper	56	—	—	55½	28	91,200	5,067	3,024	—	—	—
Adelphi, New	64	—	—	11½	—	102,400	1,081	—	—	—	100
Bellevue	100	—	—	100	—	160,000	9,565	—	—	230	100
Colonarie Vale	104	—	—	86	—	168,538	8,265	—	—	—	—
Grand Sable	394	3	18	1·43 Casks 10	10	723,555	15,360	850	—	310	278
Henry's Vale	41	—	—	22	—	68,554	2,200	1,400	—	—	18
Jambin Vale	52	3	3	16	—	86,400	1,440	—	—	—	30
Langley Park	152	—	—	54	—	255,360	5,088	—	—	600	93
Lot Fourteen	—	—	—	15	—	—	1,350	—	—	922	200
Mount Bentinck	250	—	—	115	—	468,000	10,810	—	—	663	77
Mount Greenan	65	—	2	63	—	109,600	6,082	—	—	—	90
Mount William	148	—	—	80	—	236,800	7,600	—	—	300	100
Orange Hill	110	—	—	50	—	198,000	4,500	—	—	500	85
Park Hill	112	—	—	56	—	181,888	5,376	—	—	440	120
Prospect, New	50	—	—	14	10	75,000	1,344	1,001	—	300	80
Peruvian Vale	43	1	—	18	—	72,800	2,200	1,470	—	90	18
Sans Souci	193	—	—	60	48	324,240	5,760	4,320	—	190	130
Spring	88	—	—	21 Hhds. 9	—	133,100	2,016	—	—	400	85
Tourama	214	—	—	123	—	465,136	12,800	—	—	272	214
Union	237	—	—	23	169	516,780	2,409	19,360	—	—	65
Waterloo	286	—	—	110	—	521,664	9,900	—	—	310	183
Hopewell	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	18,090	—	—
Mesopotamia	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	32,980	96	28
Freeland Cottage	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2,275	—	—
Owia	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	53,405	300	—
Nutmeg Grove	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	31,248	30	26
Glenside	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	23,813	—	—
TOTAL	2,759	7	23	1,236 Hhds. 19	265	4,959,005	120,213	31,425	161,811	5,953	2,120

Return of Produce manufactured in the several Parishes and Grenadines during the Year 1855—*continued.*

ST. GEORGE'S PARISH.

	Sugar.			Puncheons of Rum.	Puncheons of Molasses.	Pounds of Sugar.	Gallons of Rum.	Gallons of Molasses.	Pounds of Arrowroot.	Pounds of Cocoa.	Acres of Land.	Number of Labourers.
	Hogsheads.	Tierces.	Barrels.									
Argyle	102	—	—	38	1	183,600	3,822	—	—	—	—	—
Bellair	79	—	18½	24½	6	136,420	2,128	490	—	—	281	85
Belvedere	80	—	—	39	—	147,341	4,636	—	—	—	—	—
Bughton	32	11	47	—	33	72,000	—	3,300	7,800	—	—	—
Calder Calder Ridge	219	—	—	69½	—	394,200	6,811	—	—	—	—	—
Cane Hall	83	1	2	25	—	140,269	2,415	—	—	—	393	76
Carapan	105	—	—	62	—	176,324	6,394	—	—	—	240	26
Coriliamaun	10	—	—	—	—	16,000	—	—	—	—	—	—
Diamond, Lower	68	22	22	35	—	159,158	3,697	—	—	—	—	—
Escape	64	22	9	22½	—	126,400	2,195	—	—	—	—	—
Evesham Vale	79	—	2	—	37	126,840	—	3,715	—	—	—	—
Fainhall	73	—	—	12	14	147,140	1,431	1,220	—	—	420	68
Fountain	96	—	—	18	26	171,947	1,800	2,600	—	—	242	90
Kingstown Park	62	—	4	9½	11	98,652	817	909	—	—	139	60
Liberty Lodge	51	37	39	18	11	117,600	1,800	1,100	—	—	210	40
Maniaqua	82	—	—	—	49	142,400	—	4,900	—	—	—	—
Ratho Mill	37	2	—	17	2	60,265	1,666	200	—	—	—	—
Rivulet	59	—	—	35	—	105,644	3,360	—	—	—	148	10
Redemption	60	1	1	6	13	95,618	564	1,051	—	—	400	60
Revolution Hall	29	9	4	14½	—	56,800	1,420	—	—	—	180	36
Sion Hill	17	—	69	9	—	39,300	826	220	—	—	320	67
Villa	62	5	2	15½	12½	105,600	1,663	1,183	—	—	330	16
Dauphine Cottage	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	21,280	—	180	15
Carnth	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	27,965	—	—	—
Elfrida's Cottage	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	6,930	—	—	—
Mt. Agontie	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	13,320	—	—	—
Joseph's Land	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	19,000	—	—	—
Ribishi	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	21,540	—	—	—
Rose Cottage	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	6,840	—	—	—
Whim	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	20,090	—	—	—
Belmont	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	10,560	—	—	—
Kilburnie Lodge	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4,000	400	109	8
Southwood	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2,943	—	140	15
TOTAL	1,556	110	219½	470⅓	215½	2,819,518	47,445	20,888	162,268	400	3,737	672

Return of Produce manufactured in the several Parishes and Grenadines during the Year 1855—*continued.*

ST. ANDREW'S PARISH.

	Sugar.			Puncheons of Rum.	Puncheons of Molasses.	Pounds of Sugar.	Gallons of Rum.	Gallons of Molasses.	Pounds of Arrowroot.	Pounds of Cocoa.	Acres of Land.	Number of Labourers.
	Hogsheads.	Tierces.	Barrels.									
Clare Valley	10	—	8	21	—	16,500	2,391	—	—	—	435	—
Camden Park	114	—	1	25	32	202,524	2,715	3,103	—	—	330	34
Montrose	82	—	—	22½	—	139,400	2,250	—	—	—	400	80
Queensberry	112	—	2	11	50	179,700	1,473	6,000	—	—	812	103
Cane Grove	203	—	—	25	120	304,500	2,400	12,000	—	—	553	110
Hope	99	—	—	15	32	130,680	1,387	2,127	—	—	—	—
Lance Joyeux	83	—	—	4	35	132,800	400	3,500	—	—	—	—
Pembroke	139	18	—	—	119	210,008	—	12,797	—	—	560	69
Verment	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3,870	—	—	—
Bow Wood	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	7,500	—	—	—
TOTAL	142	18	11	123½	388	1,316,112	13,016	39,527	11,370	—	3,292	481

ST. PATRICK'S PARISH.

Cumberland	73	—	—	20	—	130,181	1,860	—	—	—	325	73
Keatin's	16	—	9	6½	—	26,450	650	—	—	—	—	—
Lance Mahaut	—	—	5	—	—	1,000	—	—	—	—	155	6
Mount Hope	—	—	50	1½	—	10,000	185	—	—	—	170	5
Mount Wynne	37	—	23	44	—	90,539	4,218	—	12,000	—	200	—
Peter's Hope	95	—	—	62½	—	156,750	5,983	—	—	—	569	85
Reversion	15	—	—	5	—	24,000	500	—	15,120	—	—	35
Rutland Vale	164	25	51	81¾	22	304,161	8,041	2,050	—	—	558	125
Wallilabo	66	—	—	23	2¼	107,332	2,389	288½	—	—	80	55
Palmist Park	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	12,090	—	160	20
Small Growers	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	113,329	100	464	21
TOTAL	466	25	138	244¼	24¼	850,413	23,826	2,338½	152,539	100	2,681	425

Return of Produce manufactured in the several Parishes and Grenadines during the Year 1855—*continued.*

ST. DAVID'S.

——	Sugar.			Puncheons of Rum.	Puncheons of Molasses.	Pounds of Sugar.	Gallons of Rum.	Gallons of Molasses.	Pounds of Arrowroot.	Acres of Land.	Number of Labourers.
	Hogsheads.	Tierces.	Barrels.								
Belmont	44	—	—	9	—	78,848	810	—	—	174	60
Golden Grove	53	—	—	6	23	89,040	690	2,300	—	—	—
Petit Birdell	38	—	—	4	—	55,500	400	—	—	—	—
Sharpe's											
Richmond	78	1	—	14½	10	150,000	1,181	738	—	830	160
Richmond Vale	114	—	—	10	46	182,400	822	4,542	—	388	90
Rose Bank	30	—	—	—	12	48,000	—	1,405	—	250	40
Palmyra	9	49	—	11	—	60,410	990	—	—	244	50
Rose Hall	41	—	—	6½	—	73,472	603	—	—	673	70
Troumaca	45	—	—	4	6	80,640	360	540	—	100	50
Wallibo	32	—	74	13	—	69,392	1,300	1,320	—	720	70
Small Growers	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4,680	9	—
TOTAL	484	50	74	78	97	887,760	7,156	10,845	4,680	3,388	590

GRENADINES.

——	Sugar.			Rum.	Puncheons of Molasses.	Pounds of Sugar.	Gallons of Rum.	Gallons of Molasses.	Pounds of Arrowroot.	Pounds of Cotton.	Acres of Land.	Number of Labourers.
	Hogsheads.	Tierces.	Barrels.									
				Pun. Hgds.								
Industry (Bequies)	32	—	2	17 3	—	54,800	1,766	—	—	—	500	36
Paget Farm	—	—	172	4 0	1½	39,344	392	150	720	2,386	400	26
Spring	60	—	4	31 0	—	104,800	3,100	—	—	—	619	49
Union	—	26	—	1 19	—	28,900	1,095	—	—	—	236	40
Grand Bay, Mustique	—	—	—	—	—	3,600	—	100	—	—	200	70
Cinnamon Garden	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1,600	—	75	—
TOTAL	92	26	178	53 22	1½	231,444	6,353	250	2,320	2,386	2,030	221

Return of Produce manufactured in the several Parishes and Grenadines during the Year 1855—*continued.*

RECAPITULATION.

PARISHES.	Sugar.			Puncheons of Rum.	Puncheons of Molasses.	Pounds of Sugar.	Gallons of Rum.	Gallons of Molasses.	Pounds of Arrow Root.	Pounds of Cocoa.	Pounds of Cotton.	Number of Labourers.	Acres of Land.
	Hogsheads.	Tierces.	Barrels.										
Charlotte Parish - - - -	2,759	7	23	1,236 Hhds. 19	265	4,959,005	120,213	31,425	161,811	—	—	2,020	5,953
Saint George's - - -	1,556	110	219½	470½	215½	2,819,518	47,445	20,888	162,268	400	—	672	3,737
Saint Andrew's - - -	842	18	11	123½	388	1,316,112	13,016	39,527	11,370	—	—	481	3,292
Saint Patrick's - - - -	466	25	138	244½	24¼	850,413	23,826	2,238½	152,539	100	—	425	2,681
Saint David's - - -	484	50	74	78	97	887,760	7,156	10,845	4,680	—	—	590	3,388
The Grenadines - - - -	92	26	178	53 Hhds. 22	1½	231,444	6,353	250	2,320	—	2,386	221	2,030
	6,199	236	643½	2,205	991¼	11,064,252	218,009	105,273½	494,988	500	2,386	4,509	21,081

Treasury, St. Vincent.

(Signed) J. M. GRANT, Treasurer.

Police Office, Kingstown, Friday,
18th April 1856.

SIR,

1. I forward you for the use of His Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor, in any way he may think, a return made up from the 18th day of May 1844, the date of my first appointment as police magistrate for this district, to the 31st day of December 1855, showing the statistics year by year in respect to the summary administration of justice within this district, divided into periods during the existence of the first set of Police Acts, "The Police Act, 1849," and "The Police Act, 1853."

2. Upon a similar but somewhat improved basis returns may be easily drawn up annually for each colony, and by that means similar statistics may be furnished for the whole colonial empire, and by being annually forwarded to the colonial government may be also annually laid before Parliament, affording an indication accompanied by a correct census of the progress of civilization in each colony.

3. I have some gratification in attracting the notice of His Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor to the state of the district in 1845 and its contrast in 1855, although otherwise so little effort has been made for the educational and social improvement of the masses of the population during the intervening period.

4. I made up this report in the hope of forwarding it to His Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor with my quarterly and annual returns made up to the 31st day of December 1855, but I have been unable until lately to make a copy of the one drawn up.

I am, &c.,

George Hammond Hawtayne, Esq.,
Private Secretary.

(Signed) JAMES CROSBY,
P. M. K. D., and J. P.

AN ANALYSIS of the ANNUAL RETURNS of CASES summarily heard, tried, and determined, or otherwise Government of the Island of Saint Vincent and its Dependencies, from the 18th day of May 1844, the Existence of the Police Acts 1842, 1843, 1845, 1847, and 1848, of "The Police Act, 1849," and of

DATE.	THE POLICE ACTS. The Act called SHEPHERD'S ACT. THE PETTY THEFT ACT.															Total Offences under these Acts.		
	Assault and Battery.			Larceny, Embezzlement, obtaining Money under false Pretences, and receiving of stolen Goods.			Damage to Property with Intent to steal and damage only.			Threatening, abusive, and insulting Words and Behaviour.			Other Offences.					
	Complaints.	Convictions.	Commitments.	Complaints.	Convictions.	Commitments.	Complaints.	Convictions.	Commitments.	Complaints.	Convictions.	Commitments.	Complaints.	Convictions.	Commitments.	Complaints.	Convictions.	Commitments.
During the year from the 18th May 1844 - 1844	181	91	17	68	36	17	20	9	2	210	106	9	110	64	4	589	316	49
During the year - 1845	336	202	38	124	59	35	31	13	5	242	131	23	190	85	49	923	490	150
Do. - - 1846	248	120	50	86	46	30	18	10	7	254	142	44	195	90	38	801	408	169
Do. - - 1847	200	86	16	87	49	33	6	1	1	187	85	20	138	33	22	618	254	92
Do. - - 1848	208	101	21	80	50	36	10	4	3	147	75	21	93	36	19	538	266	100
During the year to the 3d March 1849 - - 1849	32	15	2	8	5	4	3	–	–	28	13	4	18	3	3	89	36	13
Totals -	1,205	615	144	453	245	155	88	37	18	1,068	552	121	744	311	135	3,558	1,770	575
	THE POLICE ACT, 1849. The Act called SHEPHERD'S ACT. THE PETTY THEFT ACT.															Total under these Acts.		
During the year from the 9th October 1849 - 1849	54	31	7	10	9	7	2	4	–	43	25	8	60	33	20	169	102	42
During the year - 1850	216	100	24	68	44	33	27	15	5	180	79	11	221	115	49	713	353	122
Do. - - 1851	187	92	17	51	27	21	11	5	4	208	98	11	161	89	30	618	311	83
During the year to the 18th December 1852 - 1852	207	64	23	76	33	25	17	5	2	156	64	19	216	107	26	672	273	95
Totals -	664	287	71	205	113	86	57	29	11	587	266	49	658	344	125	2,172	1,039	342
	THE OFFENCE ACT, 1854.															Total under this Act.		
During the year from the 1st May 1854 - 1854	115	47	7	53	16	12	13	1	–	19	6	4	38	19	4	238	89	27
During the year - 1855	130	61	5	70	34	29	18	5	–	107	43	13	174	83	21	499	226	68
Totals -	245	108	12	123	50	41	31	6	–	126	49	17	212	102	25	737	315	95
	The Total Number of cases heard, &c.																	
During the first period -	1,205	615	144	453	245	155	88	37	18	1,068	552	121	744	311	135	3,558	1,770	573
Do. second period	664	287	71	205	113	86	57	29	11	587	266	49	658	344	125	2,172	1,039	342
Do. third period	245	108	12	123	50	41	31	6	–	126	49	17	212	102	25	737	315	95
Totals -	2,114	1,010	227	781	408	282	176	72	29	1,781	867	187	1,614	757	285	6,467	3,124	1,010
	A comparison between the Number of Cases																	
During the year - 1845	336	20	38	124	59	35	31	13	5	242	131	23	190	85	49	923	490	150
Do. - - 1855	130	61	5	70	34	29	18	5	–	107	43	13	174	83	21	499	226	68
Increase with the year 1855 - - -	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Decrease with the year 1855 - - -	206	141	33	54	25	6	13	8	5	135	88	10	16	2	28	424	264	82

disposed of, by JAMES CROSBY, Esquire, Police Magistrate for the Kingstown Police District, in the Day on which he was first appointed Police Magistrate, to the 31st Day of December 1855, during the the present Act, "The Police Act, 1853."

Offences under other Acts—Tax, Market, Town, Seamen's, Wine, Charcoal, Import, Vestry, and Friendly Societies.			Number of Cases sent to the Grand Sessions.	Total Number of Police Informations and Charges, and Complaints.			The Petty Debt Acts.						General Total of all Complaints.	REMARKS.
								Judgments given		Warrants of Execution issued.	Cases paid or partly paid.			
Complaints.	Convictions.	Commitments.		Complaints.	Convictions.	Commitments.	Complaints.	For Complainants.	For Defendants.			Commitments.		
61	17	9	12	650	333	58	190	150		49	36	—	840	The Petty Debt Acts, 1838–1844.
115	59	13	20	1,038	549	163	—	—		—	—	—	1,038	These acts were so defective as to be found inoperative.
84	30	13	18	885	438	182	713	555		229	337	46	1,598	The Petty Debt Act, 1846, came into operation 13th May 1846.
74	23	6	17	692	277	98	386	324		111	171	11	1,078	
69	8	4	20	607	274	104	580	433		138	143	23	1,187	During the existence of these Acts, 1838, 1844, and 1846, the Police Magistrate paid all expenses of clerk hire, &c.
1	—	—	1	90	36	13	78	28		20	20	—	169	
404	137	45	88	3,962	1,907	618	1,947	1,490		547	707	80	5,910	
4	1	—	2	173	103	42	—	—		—	—	—	—	The Petty Debt Act, 1846, had expired. The Police Act, 1849, repealed the other Acts as it passed the Assembly, but those clauses were struck out by the Council.
27	8	—	7	740	361	122	—	—		—	—	—	—	
29	5	4	7	647	316	87	—	—		—	—	—	—	
19	10	4	15	691	283	99	180	121		57	59	9	871	The Petty Debt Act, 1852, came into operation 13th May 1852.
79	24	8	31	2,251	1,063	350	180	121		57	59	9	3,122	
91	37	17	4	329	126	44	218	99	18	55	49	9	546	The Summary Offence Act, 1854, came into operation on the 22d August 1854, so that from the 1st May 1854 to that date many cases could only be dealt with by the Common Law, and were classed under "Other Acts," in the same manner as during the first period.
17	3	2	3	516	229	70	309	268	28	171	147	28	825	
108	40	19	7	845	355	114	527	367	46	226	196	37	1,371	
during the respective periods above mentioned.														
404	137	45	88	3,962	1,907	618	1,947	1,490		547	707	80	5,910	A period of 4 years 9½ months.
79	24	8	31	2,251	1,063	350	180	121		57	59	9	3,122	A period of 3 years 2¼ months.
108	40	19	7	845	355	114	527	396		226	196	37	1,371	A period of 1 year 8 months.
591	201	72	126	7,058	3,325	1,082	2,654	2,007		830	962	126	10,403	A period of 9 years 7¾ months.
heard, &c. in 1845, and those heard, &c. in 1855.														
115	59	13	20	1,038	549	163	—	—	—	—	—	—	1,038	The first whole year after first appointment.
17	3	2	3	516	229	70	309	268	28	171	147	28	825	The last whole year after last appointment.
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	309	268	28	171	147	28	—	
98	56	11	17	522	320	93	—	—	—	—	—	—	213	

(Signed) JAMES CROSBY,
P. M. K. D., and J. P.

AN ANALYSIS of the ANNUAL STATEMENTS of the PENALTIES and FINES imposed and collected and other District, in the Government of the Island of St. Vincent and its Dependencies, from the 18th Day of during the existence of the Police Acts 1842, 1843, 1845, 1847, and 1848, of "The Police Act, 1849,"

DATE.	Charges made by the Police. No. of Charges.	No. of Convictions.	No. of Commitments.	No. of Charges made by the Police and sent to the Grand Sessions.	Penalties and Fines imposed in consequence of Police Charges.	Penalties and Fines paid in consequence of Police Charges.	Amount of Fees occasioned by Police Charges, not charged, Felonies, &c.	Penalties Imposed by the Police Magistrates during the 9 Years 7¾ Months.	Paid by Defendants to the Police Magistrate during the 9 Years and 7¾ Months.	Fees paid to the Police Magistrate and paid into the Treasury.
During the year from the 18th May - - 1844	139	74	12	7	£ s. d. 41 8 0	£ s. d. 23 18 0	£ s. d. 22 4 6	£ s. d. 355 16 7½	£ s. d. 149 12 7	£ s. d. —
During the year - 1845	186	103	28	3	341 4 3½	63 11 7½	42 10 2	645 9 11	208 4 2	—
Do. - - 1846	145	78	46	1	57 12 0	19 7 4	46 12 6	368 17 9	110 1 11	—
Do. - - 1847	124	51	20	—	43 5 7	15 8 7	36 3 0	242 13 0	99 11 4	—
Do. - - 1848	93	37	21	4	50 13 6	9 0 6	48 13 4	228 12 9	83 5 5	—
During the year to 3d March - 1849	11	4	3	1	5 1 0	2 0 0	2 14 0	24 19 6	6 19 0	—
Totals -	698	347	130	16	539 4 4½	133 6 0½	198 17 6	1,866 9 6½	657 14 5	—
During the Period of										
During the year from October 1849	51	31	21	1	16 10 6	2 13 0	7 14 0	61 15 2	21 7 2	—
During the year - 1850	163	103	52	4	82 16 0	33 8 0	32 15 6	307 17 3	123 12 3	—
Do. - - 1851	121	71	29	—	46 17 6	22 6 0	24 16 6	286 12 1	96 1 1	—
During the year to 18th December - - 1852	162	94	27	5	47 3 6	22 10 6	38 1 0	209 8 6	95 17 1	—
Totals -	497	299	129	10	193 7 6	80 17 6	103 7 0	865 13 0	336 18 1	—
During the Period of										
							Paid to Treasurer.			
During the year from 1st May - 1854	47	19	7	—	4 0 0	2 0 0	2 17 0	75 4 1	30 11 1	64 14 0
During the year - 1855	92	41	22	—	15 0 0	10 5 0	7 7 0	77 5 8	49 1 8	103 17 3
Totals -	139	60	29	—	19 0 0	12 5 0	10 4 0	152 9 9	79 12 9	168 11 3
The Total Amount of Penalties and Fines imposed and collected and other										
During the first period -	698	347	130	16	539 4 4½	133 6 0½	198 17 6	1,866 9 6½	657 14 5	—
Do. second period	497	299	129	10	193 7 6	80 17 6	103 7 0	865 13 0	336 18 1	—
Do. third period -	139	60	27	—	19 0 0	12 5 0	10 4 0	152 9 9	79 12 9	168 11 3
Totals -	1,334	706	286	26	751 11 10½	226 8 6½	312 8 6	2,884 12 3½	1,074 5 3	168 11 3
A Comparison between the Amount of Penalties, &c.,										
During the year - 1845	186	103	28	3	341 4 3½	63 11 7½	42 10 2	645 9 4	208 4 2	—
Do. - - 1855	92	41	22	—	15 0 0	10 5 0	7 7 0	77 5 8	49 1 8	103 17 3
Increase in year 1855 -	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	103 17 3
Decrease in year 1855 -	94	62	6	3	326 4 3½	53 6 7½	35 3 2	568 4 3	159 2 6	—

Sums of MONEY and FEES received by JAMES CROSBY, Esquire, Police Magistrate for the Kingstown Police May 1844, the Day on which he was first appointed Police Magistrate, to 31st Day of December 1855, and of the present Act, "The Police Act, 1855."

Penalties and Fines remaining outstanding and unpaid during the 9 Years 7¾ Months.	Penalties or Fines and Costs paid by Defendants in Gaol to the Gaoler during 9 Years and 7¾ Months.	How disposed of by Police Magistrate.					Amounts of the Proceeds of the Seizures of Sugar, Charcoal, Unclaimed Goods, &c., made by and in the Custody of Police, and how disposed of by Police Magistrate.			Total Amount of Sums paid by and through the Police Magistrate during 9 Years 7¾ Months to all Persons in consequence of Police Informations, Charges, and Complaints.
		Paid to the Treasurer.	Paid to the Informers.	Paid to Prosecutors by way of Compensation or Amends.	Paid to the Church-wardens.	Fees paid to the Treasurer by Police Magistrate.	Paid to the Police.	Paid to the Treasurer.	Paid to the Police Fund.	
and Fines imposed, &c. during 9 Years 7¾ Months.										
£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1 13 11	3 6 9	127 13 7	0 15 0	2 14 8½	10 19 10¼	—	11 3 3½	0 17 5½	—	157 10 7½
—	20 18 4	160 13 0	10 14 7	7 4 5½	1 4 4	—	6 8 10½	11 19 8	5 9 9½	224 13 0½
27 1 8	48 18 0	62 6 11	2 17 10¼	17 12 1½	2 7 2	—	1 2 0½	—	—	135 4 1¼
9 10 6	13 19 4	97 6 11	1 10 6	12 2 7½	0 13 11	—	1 1 3½	0 19 10	—	127 14 4¾
11 12 8	17 15 6	82 0 5	1 5 0	5 18 9	—	—	1 16 6	—	1 3 6	109 19 8
—	3 0 0	6 19 0	—	5 5 9	0 3 10½	—	0 4 7½	—	—	15 13 3
49 18 9	107 17 11	536 19 10	17 2 11¼	50 18 5	15 9 1¾	—	21 16 7½	13 16 11½	6 13 3½	770 15 1
"The Police Act, 1849."										
0 3 0	3 2 6	21 7 2	—	4 15 8	— Paid to the Seamen's Hospital, London.	—	0 12 11	0 12 11	— Paid to the Secretary-at-War.	30 11 2
2 0 0	16 2 0	104 17 3	12 10 0	16 5 0½	5 0 0	—	5 13 7¼	6 8 2¾	1 5 0	168 1 1½
3 12 6	22 15 0	96 1 1	— To Colonial Hospital.	6 2 10½	—	—	2 11 11½	3 2 0	—	130 12 11
12 6 0	2 18 6	87 11 8	1 0 10	7 16 9	7 5 0	—	2 9 9½	1 9 6	—	110 12 0½
18 1 6	44 18 0	309 17 2	13 10 10	35 0 4	12 5 0	—	11 8 3¼	11 12 7¾	1 5 0	439 17 3
"The Police Act, 1853."		Appeal Cases afterwards paid, 5l. 13s. 6d. Amends, 5l. 18s. 4d. / Amends paid in jail, 8s. 4d. } 6l. 6s. 8d. + 5l. 13s. 6d. = 12l. 0s. 2d.								12 0 2
4 12 0	1 15 0	33 13 1	—	18 5 8	—	64 14 0	1 6 7	1 6 7	—	121 0 11
7 0 0	2 14 6	48 16 8	0 5 0	18 13 6½	—	103 17 3	8 10 7½	8 10 7½	—	191 8 2½
11 12 0	4 9 6	82 9 9	0 5 0	36 19 2½	—	168 11 3	9 17 2½	9 17 2½	—	312 9 1½
Sums of Money received and paid during the respective Periods above mentioned.										
49 18 9	107 17 11	536 19 10	17 2 11¼	50 18 5	15 9 1¾	—	21 16 7½	13 16 11¼	6 13 3½	770 15 1
18 1 6	44 18 0	309 17 2	13 10 10	35 0 4	12 5 0	—	11 8 3¾	11 12 7¾	1 5 0	439 17 3
11 12 0	4 9 6	82 9 9	0 5 0	36 19 2½	—	168 11 3	9 17 2½	9 17 2½	—	312 9 1½
79 12 3	157 5 5	929 6 9	30 18 9½	122 17 11½	27 14 1¾	168 11 3	43 2 1	35 6 9½	7 18 3½	1,523 1 5½
									See above - -	12 0 2
and Sums of Money paid, &c. in 1845 and in 1855.									Total - £	1,535 1 7½
—	20 18 4	160 13 0	10 14 7	7 4 5½	1 4 4	—	6 8 10½	11 19 8	5 9 9½	224 13 0½
7 0 0	2 14 6	48 16 8	0 5 0	18 13 6½	—	103 17 3	8 10 7½	8 10 7½	—	191 8 2½
7 0 0	—	—	—	11 19 1	—	103 17 3	2 1 9	—	—	—
—	18 3 10	111 16 4	10 9 7	—	1 4 4	—	—	3 9 0½	5 9 9½	33 4 10

(Signed) JAMES CROSBY,
P. M. K. D., and J. P.

ST. VINCENT.

DETAILED ACCOUNT of PUBLIC DEBT of this Colony on January 1, 1856.

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Administration of Justice:						
Chief Justice	205	0	0			
Attorney-general	100	0	0			
Provost-marshal	131	5	0			
Clerk of Crown	12	10	0			
Keeper of Court-house	10	8	4			
Police magistrate of Kingstown	102	10	0			
,, Windward district	51	5	0			
,, Calliaqua district	51	5	0			
,, Leeward district	51	5	0			
(4 days deducted) Grenadines district	30	12	2			
Four petty debt constables	40	0	0			
Kingstown ditto (one month)	3	6	8			
Three constables to special magistrates	11	0	0			
Medical attendance at inquests	4	4	0			
Rent of police stations	29	9	7			
Attorney-general, for opinions, &c.	13	13	0			
				852	13	9
Ecclesiastical Establishment:						
Rector of St. George and St. Andrew's	116	13	4			
,, Charlotte parish	85	0	0			
,, St. Patrick and St. David's	87	10	0			
,, Grenadines	35	2	8			
Two curates, Charlotte parish	75	0	0			
Curate of St. David's	37	10	0			
Parish clerks	15	0	0			
Grant to Chateaubellair Church	100	0	0			
				551	16	0
Revenue Establishment:						
Treasurer and collector of imports	162	10	0			
Three landing waiters	110	2	3			
Clerk under the Rum Act	37	10	0			
				310	2	3
Civil Establishment:						
Colonial agent	65	0	0			
Colonial secretary	62	10	0			
Colonial engineer	87	10	0			
				215	0	0
Prisons:						
Gaoler	8	6	8			
Three turnkeys and matron	16	13	4			
Chaplain	15	0	0			
Surgeon	12	10	0			
Feeding prisoners	31	18	4			
				84	8	4
Legislative Establishment:						
Speaker to 18th December	42	19	0			
Messenger to December	12	17	6			
Clerk to 31st December	41	10	0			
Clerk of Council to December	25	0	0			
Sergeant-at-arms to December	12	10	0			
Stationery for Clerk of Assembly	3	15	0			
				138	11	6
Police:						
Force	138	15	1			
Superintendent	14	15	8			
Armourer and extras	7	1	10			
				160	12	7
Miscellaneous:						
Colonial hospital	150	0	0			
Agricultural grant	50	0	0			
Roads	275	0	0			
Society for education of poor	37	10	0			
Allowance to special magistrates for stationery	15	0	0			
Printing, stationery, &c.	84	6	8			
				611	16	8
				2,926	1	1

	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Recapitulation of unpaid accounts (as before mentioned) up to 31st December 1855.		
Civil establishment	215 0 0	
Judicial establishment	852 13 9	
Ecclesiastical establishment	551 16 0	
Legislative establishment	138 11 6	
Revenue establishment	310 2 3	
Prison establishment	84 8 4	
Police establishment	160 12 7	
Miscellaneous	611 16 8	
	2,925 1 1	
Balance on 1st January available to meet the above	61 18 2	
		2,863 2 11
Unpaid public accounts up to 31st December 1854	767 13 4	
Funds on 1st January available to meet the above	153 3 11	
		613 9 5
		3,476 12 4
Unpaid treasury notes, with interest to 31st December		784 3 8
Account of estate of J. Rickard	288 18 9	
„ W. Dyer	275 0 0	
„ C. Clinton	90 0 0	
		653 18 9
		4,914 14 9
The following were not included in public accounts for 1854, although belonging to that year:		
Rent of police station, Grenadines, from 3d April to 31st December 1854	7 2 1	
Allowance of stationery to R. Sutherland, Esq., stipendiary justice, for quarter ending 31st December	0 16 8	
Rent of police station, Calliaqua, from 1st February to 31st December	14 4 2	
Rent of ditto on Adelphi estate, quarter ending 31st December	5 0 0	
		27 2 11
The following accounts were included in a return of the debt of the colony on 1st January 1855, furnished to the executive in April last:		
Gilpin and Co., clothing for police	69 3 0	
Clowes and Son, printing acts of legislature	81 3 4	
		150 6 4
Clowes and Son, account rendered in 1855 for forms to be annexed as schedules to the Summary Procedure Act, 1853, and for the use of justices of the peace		80 6 9
Account rendered by Board of Health to Legislature, of unpaid cholera debts not yet audited	1,005 12 3	
Less proceeds of additional Import Act to 31st December	256 10 4	
		749 1 11
		£5,921 12 8

Treasury, St. Vincent,
January 15, 1856.

(Signed) J. M. GRANT, Treasurer.

ST. LUCIA.

No. 19.

ST. LUCIA.

No. 19.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor HINCKS to the Right Hon. H. LABOUCHERE M.P.

(No. 14.)

Enclosure 2. sent separate.

No. 39. May 20, 1856, with 11 Enclosures.

SIR, Windward Islands, Barbados, May 22, 1856.

I have the honour to transmit the St. Lucia "Blue Book" for the year 1855, together with the Report accompanying it, from the officer administering the government of that island.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. HINCKS.

The Right Hon. H. Labouchere, M.P.,
&c. &c. &c.

Encl. in No. 19.

Enclosure in No. 19.

(No. 39.)

SIR, St. Lucia, May 20, 1856.

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Excellency the "Blue Book" for the year 1855, in duplicate, together with an abstract of the Returns contained therein, and of the Blue Books for the four preceding years.

2. Having only very recently been called upon to assume the provisional administration of the government of Saint Lucia, I must necessarily confine my observations to a few of the more important particulars comprised in the annual Blue Book.

Revenue.

	£	s.	d.
The estimated revenue for 1855 was - - -	12,550	0	0
The net revenue of the year was - - - -	12,145	6	10½
Short of estimate -	£404	13	1½

	£	s.	d.
The net revenue of 1854 was - - - -	14,087	4	6
The net revenue of 1855 was - - - -	12,145	6	10½
Decrease in 1855 of -	£1,941	17	7½

2. The decrease is principally under the items of customs and rum duty, the two chief sources of revenue, and may be ascribed to the effects of cholera, the stagnation of trade, and the large export of island rum, upon which no duty is payable, no less than 38,564 gallons of rum having been shipped in 1855, against 15,141 gallons in 1854, and 2,243 gallons in 1853.

3. The duty upon rum made and consumed in the island forms an important item of revenue, which it is believed might be advantageously augmented were the law amended in some respects, and the staff of revenue officers made more efficient.

4. For a series of eight years preceding the establishment of the system now in operation, under various modes of collecting the duty upon rum, such as a direct tax on stills, or a specific duty on rum manufactured, the annual revenue averaged only 2,812*l.*, including one year in which the excise system was tried, and which alone gave 5,164*l.* 11*s.* 2*d.*, the year previous to the adoption of the existing mode of collecting the duty giving only 1,753*l.* 5*s.*

5. The average revenue of the last three years, under the present rum duty ordinance, amounted to 4,308*l.* 9*s.* 1*d.*, or an increase of 1,495*l.* 14*s.* per annum, the amount of duty never exceeding but averaging nearly the same as in former years.

Expenditure.

	£	s.	d.
The estimated expenditure for 1855 was - - -	12,385	10	0
The net expenditure was - - - - -	14,791	8	11
Increase over estimate -	2,405	18	11

	£	s.	d.
The net expenditure of 1854 was - - -	13,565	1	4½
The net expenditure of 1855 was - - -	14,791	8	11
Increase in 1855 -	1,226	7	6½

2. If, however, the extraordinary outlay of 2,131*l.* 7*s.* 9*d.*, incurred on account of cholera and militia expenses, be deducted, as forming no part of the ordinary annual expenditure, it would appear as 12,660*l.* 1*s.* 2*d.* against 12,565*l.* 1*s.* 4½*d.*, or a decrease of 905*l.*, on the expenditure of the year 1855, as compared with that of the preceding year.

3. It results, therefore, that if the net decrease on the revenue was 1,941*l.* 17*s.* 7½*d.*, and the net increase of expenditure was 1,226*l.* 7*s.* 6½*d.*, the total amount against the transactions of the year 1855 was a deficit of—

	£	s.	d.
	£3,168	5	2
together with the balance of cash, 31st December - -	456	8	11
making in all a sum of - - - -	3,624	14	1

subject to the following changes:—

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Personal balances - -	2,379	19	10½			
Balance of cash, January 1, 1855 -	1,125	5	7½			
				3,509	5	6

by which is shown that had the revenue not decreased, and the expenditure been so materially increased by the visitation of cholera, there would have been a surplus balance at the end of the year of 115*l.* 8*s.* 7*d.*

Public Debts.

A loan of 3,000*l.* sterling on debentures, redeemable in 20 years, was obtained in 1852, for the formation and repair of roads in this island, under the provisions of the Act of the Imperial Parliament, 11 and 12 Vic. cap. 130., entitled "An Act for guaranteeing the interest on such loan not exceeding five "hundred thousand pounds as may be raised by the British Colonies on the "continent of South America, in the West Indies, and the Mauritius, for "certain purposes."

2. The interest and sinking fund of this loan are provided for by a local ordinance imposing an export tax upon sugar, molasses, and rum, at and after the following rates:

	s.	d.
Sugar, per 100 lbs. - - - -	0	1½
Molasses, per puncheon - - - -	1	0
Rum, per puncheon - - - -	2	0

3. A loan of 15,000*l.* sterling has likewise been accorded to the colony, under like conditions, by the Imperial Government, for the purpose of introducing coolie immigrants into the island, which loan is also guaranteed and provided for by an export tax on produce.

4. The road loan has been already expended. The immigration loan has not yet been drawn upon.

Public Works.

A building has been fitted up and adopted for the reception of lunatics.

2. Dangerous lunatics were formerly confined within the Royal Gaol, but this being considered objectionable, it became necessary to provide a separate place for their safe custody.

ST. LUCIA.

3. The number of insane persons now under confinement is six, most of them being quiet and inoffensive creatures.

4. Some repairs have been made to the Royal Gaol, and the rooms formerly occupied by insane prisoners are now appropriated for the detention of juvenile offenders. The frequent escape of prisoners demonstrates the necessity of something further being done to render the prison more secure.

Roads.

There unfortunately exists much cause of complaint in regard to the state of the roads and bridges of the island, which have been so damaged by the incessant rains which fell during the past year as to render them in many places almost impracticable, whilst such indispensable repairs as were made became soon imperceptible, under the destructive floods.

2. It is a work of no ordinary difficulty to keep the roads of so mountainous a country in anything like repair, and this difficulty has been greatly enhanced by the inadequate means at the disposal of the Government. An ordinance has, however, been lately passed by the Legislature, to make further and better provision for the repair of the roads, from which measure much good is expected, so soon as it can be brought into full operation.

3. It is much to be regretted that the Legislative Council, when passing this additional road ordinance, did not consent to the proposal made by the Government for the appointment of a competent engineer or road surveyor to direct and superintend the road repairs and other public works. I am satisfied that until some such scientific supervision is established no permanent amelioration of the roads and bridges of the island can be effected.

Prisoners.

Compared with previous years, there has been an increase in the number of prisoners. Of the number convicted, 10 were offences against the person and 171 against property, being an increase of 33 on the number of convictions during the year 1854; of the total number convicted, 28 were prisoners tried before the Criminal Assize Court, and sentenced to punishments varying from two years to two months' imprisonment, with or without hard labour, and 153 were misdemeanors tried before inferior Courts, in which sentences of from one to three weeks were awarded. There were 24 soldiers imprisoned during the year for military offences.

2. The expenditure on account of the gaol has been greatly augmented by the increase in the number incarcerated, and by the high price of provisions. I am inclined to think that the cost of the maintenance of the prisoners in the Royal Gaol might be considerably diminished by the employment of the penal gang in the cultivation of ground provisions for their own use.

Legislation.

Of the legislative measures passed by the Council during the year, the following are the most important:—An ordinance "to make further and better "provision for the repair and maintenance of the roads and bridges of this "island," and an ordinance "to provide for the due admission of idiots, "lunatics, and persons of unsound mind into the lunatic asylum of the island, "and to prevent the improper confinement therein of persons represented or "alleged to be labouring under any mental infirmity."

2. It having been found by experience that a large portion of the able-bodied inhabitants of the island were exempted, under the road ordinance of 1851, from contributing towards an object of such general utility and importance as the maintenance of the public highways, the additional road ordinance above referred to was passed to remedy this defect, and advantage was taken at the same time to improve the system of administration by the appointment of district road committees.

3. The ordinance imposes an annual road tax of six shillings and sixpence upon all male inhabitants between the ages of 16 and 60, commutable by six days personal service, exempting all such as shall have paid the road and education tax under the ordinance of 1851, or who shall have paid the Castries corporation house tax for the current year.

Education.

The number of children attending schools has considerably decreased, which may be attributed in some degree to the prevalence of cholera in the previous year, when the schools were temporarily closed, the children at that time withdrawn not having since returned to school; but it cannot be denied that the general attendance at any time has never been what it should have been, considering the large number of children throughout the colony.

2. To the ignorance and consequent indifference of the parents in regard to the important question of educating their children is to be abscribed much of the evil in this respect; but I apprehend little doubt can be entertained that there exists a counteracting influence to the advancement of the schools in another form, which has been adverted to by one of the stipendiary magistrates in an official report to the Government, in the following terms:—"One of the "great, in fact the greatest, causes of the failure of the schools, exists in the "marked and undisguised dislike of the Roman Catholic ministers to the "system pursued in them, for I have often heard it stated that they have even "threatened to refuse the rites of the Church to parents who should send their "children to them. There is, it appears, religion inculcated in some way "or other; if such is not the fact, the ministers think so, and that is quite "sufficient. I have no hesitation in stating that it is my firm conviction that "without the countenance of the clergy the schools cannot prosper in the "country places. They may do so in Castries or Soufriere, but nowhere else. "It would be next door to throwing away money to continue the schools "under the present system, and if the rising population are to be educated at "all, the co-operation of the clergy must be secured, by permitting them a "certain supervision over the schools, if such be absolutely necessary."

"This is a Roman Catholic community, and it is evident that the clergy "will have the people educated in that faith and according to their ideas, or "not at all."

3. There is much truth in this opinion, given by a magistrate who I may remark is himself a Protestant, and it is in perfect accordance with the views expressed by his Excellency Lieutenant Governor Power, in his last despatch on this subject. In many cases there may be no open opposition, but in all there exists a secret hostile influence, which I am convinced operates most prejudicially to the cause of education generally.

4. The trustees of the Mico charity cannot be expected to sanction the interference of the Roman Catholic Clergy with the schools established by the charity in this island, and it would be impolitic in the extreme to attempt any thing which might endanger the Mico schools, from which so much real good has been derived; but I think that a larger portion of the education fund than that now given might with advantage be bestowed upon other schools having teachers belonging to the Roman Catholic Church, in favour of which the support of the clergy would be thus secured.

5. Adverting to the suggestion made by his Excellency Lieutenant Governor Power, in his Report on the Blue Book for 1854, respecting the creation of industrial schools, I have to report that the proposition has not been favourably entertained by the trustees of the Mico Charity, who contribute largely towards the maintenance of the island schools, and whose co-operation in the matter had been requested, the funds at the disposal of the Board of Education being altogether inadequate for the purpose contemplated. The trustees object to the plan suggested, on the ground that it would involve a complete remodelling of the present system, and require a large outlay beyond what their present means will admit, and that the system hitherto pursued has worked well, and has given general satisfaction to the landed proprietors.

6. I can bear willing testimony to the good results attendant upon the establishment of the schools of the Mico Trust in this island, the first of which has been the propagation of a knowledge of the English language throughout the colony; but I have long been of opinion, that, considering the class of pupils drawn from the labouring population, too much is attempted by the teachers, who are trained to a particular system; and that were the instruction imparted limited to the rudimentary and elementary branches of education, more real practical benefit would be derived, than by inculcating lessons in astronomy, or abstruse questions of Scriptural geography. Reading, writing, and the first

ST. LUCIA.

rules of arithmetic, with some slight knowledge of geography, are all that is required. To attempt to give more is not only fruitless in its results, but is, in my opinion, manifestly injurious, and calculated to unfit the pupils for that station of life which they are destined to fill on returning to their parents.

Agriculture.

The enhanced price of colonial produce towards the close of the year operated as a stimulus to extend the cultivation, but further than this little can be noted in the way of improvement either in agriculture or manufactures.

2. The island does not possess labourers sufficiently numerous to create competition, and the labour bestowed on the cultivation of the staple products of the country is consequently given capriciously and in a desultory manner, so as to frustrate all calculation or preconcerted arrangement on the part of the employers.

3. The estates' work suffers much also from the withdrawal of the labour diverted to the cutting of logwood, which from its high price in the market, and the facility of procuring it by stealth from the waste lands of the Crown or vacant successions, has induced a large number of the more robust labourers to abandon the steady cultivation of the cane.

4. This abstraction of labour from the cultivation of the soil has at the same time seriously diminished the supply of ground provisions, such as cassava, Indian corn, plantains, potatoes, &c., &c, upon which in ordinary times the sustenance of the population so much depends, and the rarity of those articles of food has consequently greatly increased the cost of living, and the expenditure for the maintenance of prisoners and paupers.

5. Provision has been made, through the aid of an imperial loan, to introduce coolie immigrants into the island, and their arrival, which has been much retarded, is anxiously looked for.

Militia.

The militia force called into existence at the close of the year 1854 is composed of two battalions, consisting of one artillery and five light companies each; the northern battalion 343, and the southern battalion 220 men; total strength 567.

2. The militia, as a body, have made considerable progress in their drill, particularly the northern battalion, the officers of which have manifested more zeal and interest in the advancement of their companies than, I regret to say, has been exhibited on the part of the southern battalion.

3. Much valuable assistance in the organization of the militia has been afforded by the officer in command of Her Majesty's troops at Morne Fortune, by allowing a certain number of non-commissioned officers and men to act as drill instructors to the officers and privates of the militia; and I am happy to report that this assistance is to be continued, by directions of Her Majesty's Secretary of War, who has also intimated his intention to recommend that proper arms and accoutrements for the militia should be furnished at the cost of the Home Government.

4. The clothing has been ordered from England. The estimated cost is 800*l.*, to be paid by the men.

5. I have no doubt that, under proper discipline and supervision, the militia might be speedily organized, and rendered capable of maintaining order and tranquillity in the island, and that their services in the case of foreign invasion would be valuable as an auxiliary to the regular forces.

General Observations.

The revenue from import duties in 1855 was less by 1,892*l.* 13*s.* 10*d.* than the receipts under the same head in the preceding year, and the total value of imports was less by 40,784*l.* 6*s.* 6*d.*

2. I annex a return of imports (Appendix A.), which has been prepared by the treasurer. This table gives a statement of the importations during five years, and shows a considerable falling off in the articles of bread, flour, fish, and salted meats, and other provisions, which may in a great measure be ascribed to the ravages of epidemic cholera in the last half year of 1854, diminishing the already scanty population of the island by nearly 2,500 souls.

3. I have also had prepared a statement of staple exports of the island during the last seventeen years (Appendix B.) (Appendix C.), with a table showing the average exports of the sixteen years preceding 1855, compared with the exports of the latter year.

4. The export of sugar has not reached the average; but the exports of cocoa and of logwood have greatly augmented, both of these last-mentioned articles having been in great demand during the last two years. Farine manioc is the only article of provisions exported from the island, and that has fallen off from 1,437 barrels in 1852 to 283½ in 1855, it being no longer called for in the neighbouring French islands, to which it is usually exported.

5. The returns of sugar exported are taken from the records of the customs; but it must be observed that the quantity declared by the exporter as calculated according to the truss of the casks as fixed by law, is at least one sixth less than the quantity actually exported, and is invariably much less than the return given by the stipendiary magistrates of the sugar produced in their respective districts.

6. In 1855 there were eighty-five sugar estates in cultivation, employing 3,200 labourers, at daily wages varying from 10*d.* to 1*s.* 3*d.*, with free occupation of houses and provision grounds. The labour bestowed on the cultivation of the sugar estates is not, however continuous, and the number stated as being so employed comprises the greatest number employed at any one time during the year, so that not more than one eighth of the population are engaged in the cultivation and manufacture of the staple export of the island, producing an average of 2,086 pounds of sugar per head; but from the number so returned as employed in cane cultivation at least one fourth must be deducted to obtain a fair average return of labourers actually employed throughout the year, which would give an average weight of 2,764 pounds of sugar for each labourer employed, an estimate which I believe corresponds with the experience of the most practical planters in the island.

7. I have prepared and annex to this Report three tables, containing some interesting information respecting the cultivation of sugar in this colony.

No. 1. is a return of sugar estates in cultivation in 1855, showing the average number of labourers employed, the number of acres of land cultivated in canes, the quantity of produce made, and the proportion of sugar to each labourer employed.

No. 2. is a return showing the population employed in agriculture (including manufacture), the average rate of wages, quantity of sugar exported, with the average price of sugar, for a series of five years, 1851 to 1855 inclusive.

No. 3. a table showing the cost of one cwt. of sugar when embarked, and the freight and charges attending its sale.

8. The calculations in this table have been made from returns furnished by some of the most intelligent of the planters in the island, and the variation in the amount of the cost of production may be ascribed to the omission in some instances of certain items which are taken into account in others.

9. Attached to this table are two statements setting forth in detail the several items of expenditure attending the cultivation, manufacture, and sale of one cwt. of sugar.

10. Since emancipation the negro population have in considerable numbers become owners of small allotments of land, upon which they have fixed their abode, abandoning the estates whereon they formerly resided. In some few instances those lands are well cultivated in provisions, and on some canes are grown, to be manufactured, in shares, on a neighbouring estate, and many of the proprietors possess stock, such as cows, horses, goats, and poultry; but, as a general rule, I fear the acquisition of property does not increase their industry.

11. The negro is naturally indolent, and little is required to provide for his wants, which are few and circumscribed. He works occasionally upon some neighbouring sugar estate for a few days, to obtain a trifling sum, wherewith to purchase the few necessaries of life not to be found in his provision grounds, and then returns home to pass his time in comparative idleness, until necessity again urges him to resume his hoe and cutlass.

12. There are also many negroes residing in the small villages on the coast whose chief occupation is fishing, and fish being abundant in these seas they obtain a plentiful supply with little personal exertion.

ST. LUCIA.

13. There is also a large quantity of Crown land in Saint Lucia, and many abandoned estates, belonging to vacant successions, of which it is impossible to ascertain the extent. The island has a superficies of 150,000 acres, of which little more than 5,000 are cultivated. Great facilities are thus afforded for trespassing and squatting, evils which have of late greatly increased by the resort of the labourers to the woods to cut logwood and firewood, and to burn charcoal, and the impossibility of checking the practice, owing to the mountainous nature of the country, and the uncertainty of the true bounds and limits of the abandoned and waste lands.

14. Annexed is a return, (Appendix D.) of the number of small rural properties the deeds of sale of which have been registered.

This return has been compiled with great care by the Registrar of Deeds and Mortgages; but it is probable that there are still many small properties not recorded, as the class of persons acquiring small holdings are not very prudent or provident in this respect.

15. The withdrawal of the labourers from the sugar estates, and the irregularity with which they bestow any portion of their labour on cane cultivation, have occasioned much loss and embarrassment to the planters, for where labour is not certain and regular the operations of the planter are often frustrated, through the unexpected absence of the labourers upon whose assistance he had calculated.

16. Indeed it is estimated that were the supply of labour sufficient and uninterrupted an estate's crop could be doubled with about only one-fourth additional cost.

17. Five estates have been abandoned of late, owing to debt and want of means to carry on the cultivation; and there are fourteen sugar estates the registered proprietors of which are not resident in the colony. Messrs. Cavan, Brothers, & Co., and Mr. William Muter, now in England, are owners of eleven of those properties, so that the real number of absentee proprietors may be said to be only four.

18. Towards the end of the year instructions were received from the West India Relief Commissioners in London, directing the local Board of Commissioners in Aid to take immediate steps for effecting the absolute sale of three of the best and largest sugar estates in the island, to repay the imperial loans granted under the Statute 2d & 3d William IV. cap. 125., entituled "An Act "for enabling His Majesty to direct the issue of Exchequer Bills to a limited "amount for the purposes and in the manner therein mentioned, and for "giving relief to Trinidad, British Guiana, and Saint Lucia."

19. The total amount of loans granted to Saint Lucia under the Imperial Act was 18,800*l.* sterling, of which 4,814*l.* 17*s.* 7*d.* has been repaid, leaving 13,920*l.* 18*s.* 7*d.* of principal outstanding, besides interest due for periods varying from three to fourteen years.

20. This sum was accorded in 1833 to nineteen estates, twelve of which have since passed into other hands, eight by judicial or forced sale, and four by private sale or transfer.

21. The Commissioners in Aid have taken steps to bring the three properties designated to sale; and this being the first instance in which summary proceedings have been resorted to for the recovery of the loans, much interest, and no little anxiety, has been created on the part of those proprietors whose estates still remain burdened with the Government mortgage.

22. The sanitary condition of the island has been most satisfactory; no epidemic disease has prevailed, and the excess of births over deaths appears to have been 434, or 814 against 380.

23. The troops stationed at Morne Fortune have been particularly healthy, there having occured only seven deaths out of a number averaging 200 in garrison during the year.

24. The annual report of the inspector of Prisons, and the report on the Government House, as also copy of the prison regulations, are annexed to this report.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. V. DRYSDALE,
Administering the Government.

ABSTRACT RETURN from Blue Book, 1851-1852-1853-1854-1855.

Revenue.

Year.	Custom Duties.			Assessed and other Taxes, and Miscellaneous Revenue.	Total.	Increase.	Decrease.
	Import.	Export.	Tonnage.				
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1851	5,147 17 6½	1,760 9 9½	659 7 2	6,083 11 6½	13,651 6 0½	—	—
1852	5,752 17 6½	1,846 12 10	664 9 8½	4,696 5 5¼	12,960 5 6¼	—	691 0 6¼
1853	5,252 3 8	912 15 11	666 14 7	5,690 2 2	12,521 16 4	—	438 9 2¼
1854	6,482 3 8	—	744 2 10	6,872 5 9½	14,087 4 6	1,565 8 2	—
1855	4,589 9 8	—	647 2 7	6,908 14 7½	12,145 6 10½	—	1,941 17 7½

A sum of 11*l.* 7*s.* 7*d.* was erroneously included under this head in the abstract for the Blue Book of 1854, the net revenue of which year was 14,087*l.* 4*s.* 6*d.*, showing a decrease in 1855 of 1,941*l.* 17*s.* 7½*d.*, which has principally arisen from a falling off in the Customs and rum duty.

Expenditure, Colonial.

Year.	Civil Government.	Judicial.	Ecclesiastical.	Poor.	Police.	Prisons.	Other Expenditure.	Total.	Increase.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1851	3,661 13 6½	2,686 4 7½	1,244 16 3½	240 8 5½	850 10 0	496 3 8	1,952 15 7	11,132 12 2	—
1852	3,138 0 6	2,850 1 10	1,267 17 2½	335 6 5½	942 8 0	615 7 2¾	2,540 2 2¾	11,689 3 5½	556 11 3½
1853	3,659 17 10½	2,685 17 1	1,378 4 6½	307 14 3	943 8 0	605 3 0½	2,889 10 1	12,449 14 10½	760 11 5
1854	3,641 0 6	3,116 2 4	1,396 4 11	436 18 6	987 4 0	782 1 5½	3,205 9 8	13,565 1 4½	1,115 6 6
1855	3,607 9 2	2,793 13 6	1,466 3 2	312 17 7	962 16 0	814 16 8	4,833 12 10	14,791 8 11	704 4 5

The increased expenditure has been chiefly occasioned by the expenses consequent on the invasion of epidemic cholera in the preceding year, amounting to more than 2,000*l.* sterling.

Expenditure, Local and Parochial.

Year.	Education.	Roads.	All other Parochial Charges.	Total.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1851	853 6 1½	—	838 1 5	1,691 7 6
1852	1,105 0 0	489 11 6	1,167 9 10	2,762 1 4
1853	1,070 18 9½	3,126 4 11½	1,281 5 8	5,478 9 5
1854	1,156 18 7	292 10 2	1,293 9 11	2,742 18 8
1855	870 12 3	550 15 7	1,132 11 10	2,553 17 8

The amount for educational purposes is exclusive of a sum of 500*l.* contributed by the Mico Charity. The sum expended on the roads is derived from a tax of 2*s.* 6*d.* upon houses. The miscellaneous expenditure consists of 1,124*l.* 8*s.* 7*d.* incurred by the Corporation of Castries, and a sum of 8*l.* 3*s.* 3*d.* for purposes of local improvement in the villages.

Expenditure, Great Britain.

Year.	Civil.	Military.	Total.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1851	1,816 18 9	13,317 16 5	15,134 15 2
1852	1,749 19 0	12,705 19 7	14,455 18 0
1853	1,775 4 4	13,033 16 2	14,809 0 6
1854	1,754 10 4	14,768 4 7	16,522 14 11
1855	1,477 0 0	13,712 0 7	15,189 0 7

The decrease in the civil expenditure is owing to the abolition of the salaried offices of Controller of the Imperial Custom and Navigation Laws, the duties of which offices have now devolved upon the Colonial Treasurer.

ST. LUCIA.

Population.

Year.	Males.	Females.	Total.
1851	11.763	12,527	24,290
1852	11,749	12,601	24,350
1853	12,034	12,973	25,007
1854	11,511	12,612	24,123
1855	11,931	13,299	25,230

The records of births and deaths are imperfectly kept; but the returns show a marked increase in the population, which had been considerably decreased by cholera.

Land.

Year.	Area in Square Miles.	Acreage under Cultivation.
1851	Unknown.	4,077
1842	,,	4,674
1853	,,	6,103½
1854	,,	4,628
1855	,,	5,306½

Nil.

Coins and Currency.

Year.	Specie in Circulation.	Notes in Circulation.
1851	Unknown.	Estimated at 5,208*l.*
1852	Unknown.	Estimated at 4,166*l.* 13*s.* 4*d.*
1853	Estimated at 10,500*l.*	Estimated at 4,166*l.* 13*s.* 4*d.*
1854	Estimated at 10,600*l.*	Estimated at 4,180*l.*
1855	Estimated at 10,600*l.*	Estimated at 5,208*l.* 6*s.* 8*d.*

Nil.

Churches.

Year.	Church of England.	Other Denominations.	Number of Sittings.	Average Attendance.	Per Cent. on Population.
1851	3	10	5,932	7,650	31·63/00
1852	3	10	5,982	8,000	33· 7/00
1853	3	10	6,575	8,455	33·81/00
1854	3	9	5,550	7,550	31·28/00
1855	3	9	6,892	7,835	31·50/00

The accommodation is not sufficient for the attendance at the Roman Catholic churches. The average attendance at the three Protestant churches does not exceed 250.

Schools.

Year.	Church of England.	Other Denominations.	Total Number of Scholars.	Per Cent. on Population.
1851	10	5	904	3·73/00
1852	11	9	1,117	4·61/00
1853	20	2	1,393	5·16/00
1854	18	4	1,243	5·14/00
1855	13	5	1,052	4·34/00

Properly speaking there are no schools of the Church of England; those enumerated in the first column are so placed to distinguish them from Roman Catholic schools placed in the second column. The general attendance, which had much fallen off owing to cholera in 1854, had commenced to revive towards the end of 1855.

Value in Sterling.

Year.	Imports. From Great Britain.	Imports. From British Colonies.	Imports. From Foreign Countries.	Imports. Total.	Exports. To Great Britain.	Exports. To British Colonies.	Exports. To Foreign Countries.	Exports. Total.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1851	22,179 3 7	29,612 4 9	17,089 17 7	68,881 5 11	45,699 6 6	8,005 18 11	1,180 0 0	54,815 5 5
1852	38,508 16 8	25,800 10 8	16,691 15 3	81,002 2 7	46,553 9 8	7,037 18 8	3,619 2 8	57,210 11 0
1853	26,001 2 8	27,350 5 9	19,298 17 11	72,650 6 4	46,438 9 8	7,930 14 7	2,635 8 7	57,004 12 10
1854	41,966 8 9	27,879 2 11	26,432 19 4	96,278 11 0	46,004 16 5	6,668 1 0	3,163 11 3	55,836 8 8
1855	12,831 0 9	22,188 14 7	20,494 9 2	55,514 4 6	47,508 12 10	2,689 19 6	4,781 13 4	54,980 5 8

There has been a decrease on Imports of 40,764*l.* 6*s.* 6*d.*, and a decrease of 856*l.* 3*s.* on Exports.

Shipping.

Year.	Inwards. From Great Britain.	Inwards. From British Colonies.	Inwards. From Foreign Countries.	Inwards. Total.	Outwards. To Great Britain.	Outwards. To British Colonies.	Outwards. To Foreign Countries.	Outwards. Total.
1851	2,810	5,364	1,851	10,025	3,548	4,287	2,915	9,850
1852	3,178	4,870	3,109	11,157	3,930	4,830	2,471	11,231
1853	2,226	4,333	3,190	9,749	3,799	4,125	2,352	10,276
1854	3,525	5,743	3,205	12,471	3,434	2,468	5,460	11,362
1855	1,392	3,595	2,579	7,566	3,883	5,308	4,594	13,785

Nil.

Return of Criminal and other Prisoners.

Year.	Men.	Women.	Boys.	Girls.	Total.	Increase.	Decrease.	Debtors.
1851	239	69	3	5	316	—	—	—
1852	221	39	3	2	265	—	51	—
1853	149	55	2	—	206	—	59	—
1854	178	21	2	—	201	—	5	—
1855	221	36	2	—	259	53	—	3

Committed for safe custody 78. Total number convicted 181. The increase consists in the greater number of commitments for safe custody, and the convictions for misdemeanours.

Government Office, Saint Lucia.

J. V. DRYSDALE,
Colonial Secretary.

ST. LUCIA.

A.

TABLE of certain ARTICLES of IMPORTATION during the Years 1851–52–53–54 and 1855.

Articles.	Weight or Measure.	1851.	1852.	1853.	1854.	1855.
Bread	Barrels	432	231	128	357	105
Butter	Cwts.	170 0 10	148 2 12	193 0 11	194 1 6	217 0 2
Cheese	Cwts.	52 2 20	51 1 9	23 3 9	49 0 22	46 1 13
Corn and Grain	Bushels	3,068	1,839	2,577	2,475	1,342
Corn Meal	Barrels	500	77	62	209	117
Fish, dry	Quintals	9,795	10,114	9,678	8,443	7,810
Fish, pickled	Barrels	313	769	299	481	146
Fish, smoked	Boxes	85	75	289	414	359
Flour, Wheat	Barrels	5,894	4,548	3,983	5,437	3,261
Lard	Cwts.	45 1 0	50 2 25	170 2 1	248 3 24	264 1 0
Meat, salted	„	1,540 3 10	786 3 18	579 0 2	1,599 0 20	675 0 0
Oil, Olive	Gallons	4,765	4,318	3,952	4,210	4,599
Rice	Cwts.	907 3 16	2,054 2 22	1,029 3 12	1,204 3 17	518 3 2
Salt	Barrels	806	463	1,140	1,053	839
Tobacco, manufactured	lbs.	5,532	6,590	6,656	10,210	4,193
Tobacco, unmanufactured	„	50,230	51,047	42,960	29,022	60,683
Vermicelli	„	2,494	2,676	3,914	2,983	2,819
Vinegar	Gallons	1,063	1,673	1,253	1,270	1,328
Wines	„	14,774	12,038	11,378	8,638	6,587
Live Stock	Head	381	450	551	690	333
British manufactured Goods	£	33,788 12 9	46,112 19 4	35,538 2 6	47,639 13 0	25,541 5 5
Value of Imports	£	68,881 5 11	81,001 2 7	72,650 6 4	96,278 11 0	55,514 4 6

(Signed) R. G. M'HUGH,
Treasury, Saint Lucia, May 2, 1856. Her Majesty's Treasurer.

(True Copy.)
J. V. DRYSDALE, Colonial Secretary.

B.

STATEMENT of STAPLE EXPORTS from ST. LUCIA, from 1839 to 1855 inclusive.

Date.	Sugar.	Coffee.	Cocoa.	Molasses.	Rum.	Firewood.	Logwood.	Farine Manioc.
Year	lbs.	lbs.	lbs.	Gallons	Gallons	Cords	Tons	Barrels
1839	3,487,000	448,650	91,280	122,800	1,200	55	195	—
1840	3,625,500	411,000	105,450	67,000	13,200	115	197	—
1841	4,782,400	82,704	68,656	101,300	13,300	175	130	—
1842	6,461,000	59,100	55,650	127,200	9,200	158	131	—
1843	7,283,360	48,379	80,961	136,310	236	179	56	—
1844	6,983,300	25,312	44,800	111,800	11,200	168	51	—
1845	7,041,100	67,078	130,592	99,700	17,000	287	69	—
1846	5,224,800	65,856	123,456	197,420	3,559	351	82	—
1847	10,512,422	48,363	105,476	166,021	43,468	167	167	—
1848	6,533,968	19,722	107,512	120,822	13,921	399	180	—
1849	7,874,832	31,471	104,912	104,042	5,391	467	97	—
1850	6,530,608	11,722	89,635	105,774	840	452	148	—
1851	7,560,224	25,979	122,875	122,158	958	300	156	—
1852	7,113,904	30,520	134,721	151,130	3,400	474	93	1,437
1853	6,883,072	16,068	186,782	166,850	2,890	310	365	463
1854	6,635,045	145	161,216	106,200	12,500	325	1,154	23½
1855	6,356,821	745	137,931	102,835	38,848	200	1,294	—
	110,889,356	1,392,814	1,850,905	2,109,362	191,111	4,582	4,565	1,923½

(Signed) R. G. M'HUGH,
Treasury, Saint Lucia, May 2, 1856. Her Majesty's Treasurer.

(True Copy.)
J. V. DRYSDALE, Colonial Secretary.

(C.)

TABLE showing the AVERAGE EXPORTS of 16 Years preceding 1855.

Produce.	Average Exports of 16 Years, viz. 1839 to 1855.	Export of 1855.	Increase over Average.	Decrease under Average.
Sugar - - - Lbs.	6,520,783	6,356,821	—	163,962
Coffee - - - „	87,004	745	—	86,257
Cocoa - - - - „	100,811	137,931	37,120	—
Molasses - - - Galls.	125,408	102,835	—	22,573
Rum - - - „	9,516	38,848	29,332	—
Firewood - - - Cords	274	200	—	74
Logwood - - - Tons	210	1,294	1,084	—

J. V. DRYSDALE,
Colonial Secretary.

No. 1.

RETURN of SUGAR ESTATES in Cultivation in 1855.

Number of Sugar Estates in Cultivation.	Average Number of Labourers for each Estate.	Number of Acres cultivated in Canes.	Quantity of Sugar made.	Quantity of Rum distilled.	Quantity of Molasses obtained.	Proportion of Sugar to each Labourer employed.
85	37	3,253	lbs. 6,683,867	gall. 74,123	gall. 176,151	lbs. 2,086

This table is compiled from returns prepared by the stipendiary magistrates from information furnished by the planters, and it will be observed that the quantity of sugar made is more than that given by the export return of the customs.

J. V. DRYSDALE,
Colonial Secretary.

No. 2.

RETURN showing the POPULATION employed in AGRICULTURE, the Rate of Wages for Labour, the Average Price of Sugar, and the Quantity of Sugar exported during the Years 1851, 1852, 1853, 1854, and 1855.

Year.	Population employed occasionally in Agriculture.	Average Rate of daily Wages.	Mean Rate of Wages.	Quantity of Sugar exported.	Average Price of 1 Cwt. Sugar.	Proportion which daily Wages bear to net Price of Sugar.
1851	3,807	8*d.* to 12*d.*	10*d.*	7,560,224	22*s.* 3*d.* or 267*d.*	26
1852	3,942	9½*d.* to 14*d.*	11¼*d.*	7,113,901	22*s.* 3*d.* or 267*d.*	23
1853	3,718	8*d.* to 12*d.*	10*d.*	6,883,072	24*s.* 6*d.* or 294*d.*	29
1854	3,180	9¾*d.* to 13½*d.*	11¼*d.*	6,635,045	24*s.* 1*d.* or 289*d.*	26
1855	3,201	10*d.* to 14*d.*	11*d.*	6,356,821	30*s.* 5*d.* or 365*d.*	33½

This return gives the greatest number of labourers employed at any one time, but the average number employed throughout the year cannot be computed at more than 2,400. The exports are taken from the customs returns, which give much less sugar than the quantity actually made.

J. V. DRYSDALE,
Colonial Secretary.

ST. LUCIA.

No. 3.

RETURN showing the COST of One Cwt. of SUGAR, free on board at the Port of Shipping, and the Freight and Charges attending its Sale.

No.	Names of Estates.	Cost of Cultivation with Proportion of incidental Charges.	Cost of Manufacture including Packages and Carriage.	Export Duty.	Cost of One Cwt. Sugar in the Colony.	Average Freight to England.	Commission, Interest, and Charges on Sale.	Total Cost of One Cwt. Sugar when sold.
		£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1	Anse Mamin	0 7 9	0 2 10½	0 0 4½	0 11 0	0 3 6	0 16 0	1 10 6
2	Réunion, Choiseul	0 6 1	0 2 8	0 0 4½	0 9 1½	0 3 6	0 16 0	1 8 7½
3	Balembouche	0 8 1½	0 2 6	0 0 4½	0 11 0	0 3 6	0 16 0	1 10 6
4	Tourny Estate	0 9 8	0 8 8	0 0 4½	0 18 8½	0 3 6	0 16 0	1 18 3½
5	Belle Plaine Estate	0 7 7	0 6 10	0 0 4½	0 14 9½	0 3 6	0 16 0	1 14 3½
6	Réunion Laborie	0 5 8	0 3 6	0 0 4½	0 9 6	0 3 6	0 16 0	1 9 0
7	Pointe Estate	0 7 9	0 2 10½	0 0 4½	0 11 0	0 3 6	0 16 2½	1 10 8½
8	Cap Estate	0 7 9	0 2 10½	0 0 4½	0 11 0	0 3 6	0 16 0	1 10 6
9	Union Vale Estate	0 10 8	0 2 7¼	0 0 4½	0 13 7¾	0 3 6	0 17 6	1 14 7¾
10	Retraite Estate	0 5 3	0 7 6	0 0 4½	0 13 1	0 3 6	0 18 0	1 14 7½
11	Pointe Sable Estate	0 6 0	0 7 0¾	0 0 4½	0 13 5¼	0 3 6	0 18 0	1 14 11¼
12	St. Urbam Estate	0 6 4	0 7 0	0 0 4½	0 13 8½	0 3 6	0 17 10	1 15 0½
	Average Costs				0 12 6			1 12 7

N.B.—6 Water Mills, viz. Nos. 1, 2, 3, 6, 9 and 10. 4 Steam Engines, viz. Nos. 7, 8, 11 and 12. 1 Windmill, viz. No. 4. 1 Cattle Mill, viz. No. 5.

J. V. DRYSDALE,
Colonial Secretary.

COST of PRODUCTION of One Cwt. of SUGAR on the UNION VALE ESTATE, in the Parish of Soufriere, Island of St. Lucia, the Total Amount of the Crop being 1,950 Cwt. net.

	£	s.	d.
For cultivation, including stock-keepers, grass-cutters, groom, and all labour employed, making manure and roads, and carting sugar	0	5	3½
For manufacturing one Cwt.	0	1	5
For proportion of package	0	1	0
For proportion of salary of manager and overseers	0	2	0
For proportion of cost of lumber, timber, and building lime, nails, paint, oil, tallow, cordage, tar, carpenters and mason work, repairing buildings, carts, &c.	0	1	9
For proportion of wear and tear of live stock working on the estate, being calculated at 10 per °/₀ per annum on the value thereof	0	0	9
For proportion of wear and tear of sugar mill, coppers, and carts, calculated at 7½ per °/₀ on value	0	0	1
For export duty per Cwt.	0	0	4½
For proportion of loss on exchange being about 1¼ per °/₀	0	0	1¾
For proportion of transport by water to the ship	0	0	1¾
For proportion of interest on annual outlay at 5 °/°	0	0	8¼
Total cost of one Cwt. of sugar put on board ship	0	13	7¾
Duty, freight, and all other charges attending the sale in the British market about 21s.	1	1	0
Total	1	14	7¾

Thus if the sugar of the above mentioned estate sells for 35 shillings per Cwt., it leaves 4¼*d.* as interest on capital; if lower (as has frequently been the case during several years past) it leaves a loss.

(Signed) JOHN GOODMAN,
Proprietor.

COST of PRODUCTION of One Cwt. SUGAR on the ANSE MAMIN ESTATE, in the Parish of Soufriere, Island of St. Lucia.

	£	s.	d.
For cultivation, including salaries of managers, overseers, &c., and trifling repairs	0	7	9
For manufacturing, including cutting and carrying canes and the proportion of the cask	0	2	6
For freight from Soufriere to Castries	0	0	4½
For colonial export duty	0	0	4½
	0	11	0
For freight from St. Lucia to London	0	3	6
For duty and all other charges in England	0	16	0
Total	1	10	6

(Signed) P. CAVALIER.

(True Copies.)
J. V. DRYSDALE,
Colonial Secretary.

D.

A RETURN of the NUMBER of SMALL RURAL PROPERTIES, the Deeds of Sale of which have been recorded in the Mortgage Office, St. Lucia, from the 3d July 1829 to the 1st May 1856.

Under One Acre.	One and under Five.	Five and under Ten.	Over Ten.
12	259	213	249

Certified correct this 9th Day of May 1856.
(Signed) HENRY H. BREEN,
Registrar of Deeds and Mortgages.

(True Copy.)
J. V. DRYSDALE,
Colonial Secretary.

REPORT of the Pavilion Committee on the Pavilion and Furniture contained therein, for the Blue Book for the Year 1855.

We have little to add to our Report for the year 1854; during the past year (1855) the sum of 17*l.* 9*s.* 5*d.* was expended in making small necessary repairs, and is the smallest sum expended during a period of twelve months upon that building for many years past.
The inventory of furniture is the same, and it is in fair state of repair.

Castries, Saint Lucia,
April 12, 1856.

(Signed) JAMES MACFARLANE, M.C.
J. P. LEUGER, M.C.
R. G. M'HUGH, H.M. Treasurer in charge of Works and Buildings.

ST. LUCIA.

INVENTORY of the Furniture, the Property of the Colony, in the Pavilion.

Drawing Room.

Two sofas.
Four card tables.
Two sofa tables.
Seventeen drawing-room chairs.
One bronze three-light chandelier.

Dining Room.

One large sideboard.
Two small ditto.
One telescope table and leaves.
One side table.
Twenty-three dining-room chairs.
One celaret.

Office and Gallery.

One ottoman.
Two small tables.
Two easy chairs.
One writing table.
Two office tables.
Eleven chairs.
One small press.
One large armour.

First Bedroom.

One bedstead and mattress and netting.
One chest of drawers.
One armour.

Second Bedroom.

One bedstead, mattress, and netting.
One chest of drawers.
One dressing table.
One washhand stand.
Ewer, basin, and chamber.
One looking glass.

Third Bedroom.

One bedstead, mattress, and netting.
One dressing table.
One washhand stand.
Ewer, basin, and chamber.
One commode.
One looking glass.

Fourth Bedroom.

One bedstead, mattress, and netting.
One chest of drawers.
One washhand stand.
Ewer, basin, and chamber.
One looking glass.
One dressing table.
One common table.
Two bidets.

Miscellanea.

One chest of drawers.
One washhand stand.
One ewer, basin, and chamber.
One dressing table.
One looking glass.
One commode.

Sundries.

One eight-day clock.
Sixteen common chairs (damaged).
Twenty barrel shades.
Eight side shades.
Three iron bedsteads.
Three deal tables.
One small mattress.
Five screens.

Government Office,
April 12, 1856.

(Signed) R. G. M'HUGH,
Her Majesty's Treasurer at
St. Lucia, in charge of Works and Buildings.

(True Copies.)
J. V. DRYSDALE, Colonial Secretary.

SIR, Castries, St. Lucia, February 21, 1856.

1. I HAVE the honour to make the following report on the Royal Gaol for the year 1855.

2. The Royal Gaol of Castries is the only prison in the island. It is a substantially-built, commodious, and well-ventilated edifice in masonry, measuring 75 feet in length by 36 feet in width, with an open gallery along the front of nine feet in width. The prison is surrounded on three sides by high walls, and on the fourth by a wall four feet high, surmounted by a strong iron railing, but which, however, affords little opposition to the escape of prisoners of desperate character who are bent on breaking out. There are four separate yards within the walls for exercise, &c. The outbuildings consist of an hospital, a house and kitchen for the gaoler, a stove room attached to the kitchen, a privy, through which water is continually running, and a building containing two large airy cells, built for the confinement of dangerous lunatics, but now used for that of juvenile offenders, lunatics being no longer admitted into the prison. In the front or main yard there is a large open reservoir, into and out of which there is always flowing a copious supply of excellent water. The gaol is at present in good repair, with the exception of the gratings of the windows, which require to be renewed, being almost entirely eaten through with rust, many of the bars are corroded away to the size of a quarter of an inch at the bottoms where they enter the sills, and would no more prevent the generality of European criminals from effecting their escape, than if they were made of wood of the same size. I must again call attention to my recommendation, that the gallery in front of the prison be jalousied in, as the afternoon sun strikes with such intense heat as to render parties

confined there very uncomfortable, and in consequence of which the prisoners often strip themselves nearly naked in order to be cooler. A small shed is about being built in the main yard where the prisoners may have their food cooked; this is a most desirable object, as the prisoners now have no place whatever where they can light a fire during rain.

3. The gaol is capable of containing 130 prisoners with complete separation of the sexes: 259 persons were confined during the year, 223 males and 36 females.

4. There are nine wards on the upper floor of the gaol, measuring 16 feet by 13 feet; of these, two are day rooms, two are reserved for the confinement of debtors, and one is occupied by the turnkey. The attic is divided into three large rooms, in which the female prisoners are kept. There are ten cells on the ground floor, which are commodious, clean, and well ventilated.

5. Prisoners under sentence receive two suits of clothes per annum, which I consider too small an allowance, because when working outside they are very liable to get wet, and be brought back to prison and locked up so, as they very often have not a second suit to put on. No bedding is supplied. The prisoners in the cells on the ground floor (which is paved with bricks, and which I consider unhealthy, as the bricks are hardly ever free from humidity, taking a long time to dry after being scoured, which they are once a week) have raised trestles on which they sleep; those in the upper wards, generally parties for trial, sleep on the floor.

6. The diet consists of half-a-pound of salt fish and half a pot of farine manioc, or its equivalent of bread. Debtors receive an alimentary allowance from the incarcerating creditor; and soldiers, imprisoned under sentence of courts-martial, pay sixpence per diem for their rations.

7. The hours of labour of the penal gang, are from six to nine a.m., and from ten a.m. to five p.m. The hours within the gaol walls are from six to ten a.m., and from two to six p.m. The hours allotted for exercise are, for male prisoners, from ten to twelve, and for females, from twelve to two p.m. The work of the prisoners under sentence of hard labour, and who work outside the gaol, is not fixed; at one time they are employed in repairing portions of the public roads near Castries, at another in digging gravel for filling up the swampy parts of the town, and at others in clearing away and keeping in order the lands of Government House, &c. Those who work within the walls are employed in breaking stone. Tradesmen, such as carpenters, masons and tailors, are generally employed at their respective crafts during the same hours as the other prisoners. The female prisoners are employed in cleaning the prison, and asylum for the poor, and in making clothes for the other convicts. I am glad to be able to report, that the penal gang are about to be employed on some land near the gaol, for the purpose of growing provisions for the use of the prisoners; and I feel convinced, that were the best portion of the penal labour bestowed in this way, provisions enough might be raised, not only for the subsistence of the whole of the prisoners, but sufficient to produce a sum more than adequate for procuring their salt fish and paying for their clothes, &c.

7. Prisoners under criminal sentence are not allowed to receive parcels or letters until they have been inspected by the keeper, and in case of any improper communication being attempted, the keeper is empowered to withhold such parcel or letter until he receives the instructions of the provost marshal general, who may dispose of them as he deems advisable; they can receive no visits from their friends or relations, until after the expiration of three months from their committal, and then only in every succeeding three months, except in cases of sickness and under special circumstances. No extra food is allowed without a written order to that effect by the surgeon or provost marshal.

8. There is no regular chaplain appointed to the prison! There is no chapel in the gaol, nor any suitable apartment for the performance of divine service! The prisoners, when any clergyman does visit the gaol, assemble under the superintendence of the prison officers in one of the day rooms, when the best separation that the size of the apartment will permit is maintained among them. I regret, however, to have to report that the Protestant minister visited the prison but four times during the year, viz., on the 28th March, 28th August, 5th September, and 25th November, and that none of the Roman Catholic clergy, or any other religious teacher, did so even once during the whole of 1855; whereas the attendance was good in previous years.

9. The surgeon visits the gaol daily, and also attends whenever called by the keeper; he keeps a journal in which is inserted the name of each sick prisoner, with the nature of the disease, the treatment or medicines prescribed, and the result of the case. An hospital is attached to the prison, with a separate yard for air and exercise. Sixty-four cases are reported as having been taken into hospital during the year, only one of which from cholera was fatal. The most prevalent diseases were fever, of which there were 16 cases, ulcer 12 cases, cholica 6 cases, and ophthalmia 5 cases.

I have, &c.,

(Signed) J. H. JENNINGS,
Special Justice, 2d District, and
Inspector of Prisons.

(True Copy.)
J. V. DRYSDALE, Colonial Secretary.

ANTIGUA.

No. 20.

ANTIGUA.

No. 20.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor HAMILTON to the Right Honourable H. LABOUCHERE.

(No. 21.)

Leeward Islands, Antigua, May 10, 1856.

(Received June 5, 1856.)

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to transmit in duplicate the "Blue Book" of this island for the year 1855, and to offer some remarks on the points which this annual compilation of statistics presents more prominently for notice.

Revenue and Expenditure.

2. The return of revenue and expenditure exhibits a decrease of revenue amounting to 877*l.* 2*s.* 7*d.*, and an increase of expenditure to the extent of 3,542*l.* 12*s.* 8¾*d.*

3. The diminution of revenue is caused by a deficiency on import and tonnage duties of 1,367*l.* 11*s.* 2¼*d.*, which reduction is mitigated, on the total amount shown, by increased lodgments from the savings' bank, (488*l.* 7*s.* 9¾*d.*), and an excess of 241*l.* 16*s.* 4*d.* on the collections from public fines. These are the only heads of receipt which exhibit any features worthy of notice. The fluctuations in the other items are only such as are to be found on any comparison of years.

4. The diminution in the sum raised by import duties does not indicate any retrogression in the trade of the colony, but is rather attributable to the scarcity and high prices of flour and other provisions of a like nature which have prevailed in the United States, from whence our chief supplies of these articles are obtained. The quantities imported have in consequence not been so great as in the preceding year although yielding what may still be considered as an average return under the Tariff Act.

5. The expenditure for the year has been heightened principally by additional disbursements on account—

	£	*s.*	*d.*
Of Roads to the extent of - -	1,345	4	1
Of Board of Health - - -	1,354	2	6½
Of Common Gaol - - -	501	18	8¼
Of Poor House - - - -	351	0	0
	3,552	5	3¾

Very large outlay on the repairs of highways has been necessary during the past year, in consequence of the Road Act having expired in 1854, and some time having elapsed before that law was revived, during which period the roads of course suffered greatly from neglect, and had fallen into such a state as to require heavy disbursements to place them in their former condition. The same remark applies to the streets of St. John, of which the care was transferred to the board of health by the Health Act; and no less a portion than 1,160*l.* of the whole amount disbursed by the board was expended on the reconstruction and repair of streets.

6. There is an apparent increase in the expense of the judicial establishment as shown on the face of the comparative statement for the last two years; but this only arises from the circumstance that salary for five quarters had been paid to the chief justice within the twelve months of 1855, as against three quarters in the preceding year. The other variations in amount are only usual.

Public Debt.

7. The liabilities of the colony have been upon the whole reduced. The sum now due from the island, or rather for which the public are responsible to Her Majesty's Government, is 60,000*l.*, of which 21,584*l.* is the portion

remaining unliquidated on the score of the amount expended for public works, and that has to be met from the general revenues of the island. The local loan has been swollen by the amount of 700*l.* borrowed on debentures under the guarantee of resolutions of the legislature, for the purpose of meeting temporary pressure on the resources of the colony.

Public Works.

8. The repairs and reconstruction of roads and streets were the only works of a public nature in progress during the past year. These, however, as has been observed, under the head of revenue and expenditure, have entailed heavy drafts upon the Treasury; but it may be hoped that for the ensuing year the provision for this branch of the public service need not be very extensive.

Legislation.

9. Very few laws have been passed by the legislature during the past year, and those have been measures of common-place character, renewing and amending previously existing enactments. Subjects of importance, however, to the future progress and well-being of the community, have been engaging the attention of the Council and Assembly, and I trust we shall soon experience the benefit of their deliberations in several measures of salutary character, to which I shall more particularly advert in my remarks on the general state of the colony.

Population.

10. The results exhibited by the returns of baptisms, marriages, and burials are very satisfactory, showing an increase in the number of baptisms of 89, in marriages of 41, and a decrease in burials of 237, or more than 20 per cent. The community not having suffered in either year from any epidemic visitation, it seems difficult to account for so favourable a circumstance by any special reason. It would be, perhaps, attributing an undue amount of importance to the results of the efforts of the Board of Health, established under the Health Act of 1854, to ascribe it altogether to their labours; but I am disposed to entertain the opinion that the greater attention to sanitary considerations, to cleanliness, and to carefulness for the sick, on the part of their relations, which the Board have striven to inculcate, have produced no inconsiderable fruit, which is partially displayed in the return now under review.

11. The small proportion of the labouring population (about 8,000 in 31,000) who are provided by estates or furnish themselves with regular medical attendance, which was alluded to by my predecessor in his report for the year 1854, has attracted much remark, and caused corresponding activity of inquiry into the best means of combating so undesirable a state of affairs. There can be little doubt that, humanly speaking, a very large and unnecessary loss of life is the result of neglect.

12 Previously to the emancipation of the slaves in 1834, not only was there stringent provision made by local enactments for medical care of the people, but every proprietor had a direct pecuniary interest in the preservation of their lives. Afterwards, it was endeavoured to retain as far as possible, under the change of system, all that was salutary in this respect from the destruction of the previous social relations between master and servant, and the laws regulating contracts of service provided that every servant employed under a "general hiring" should be furnished with proper medicine and medical attendance during his or her illness. For some while these regulations had the effect desired; but in process of time the greater number of labourers withdrew themselves from the plantations, and, with the view of enjoying, as they imagined, more fully the advantages of freedom, settled themselves in the "free villages," as they were termed. Unfortunately, disinclination to incur expense has left the bulk of the villagers unprovided with medical aid; and other causes, such as the unhealthiness of the sites of these villages, which for the most part were on land which had been sold because from its marshy or barren nature it was of little value for agricultural purposes, have, there can be little doubt, increased the rates of mortality.

13. The Board of Health have given their attention to this subject, and it is, as I have already observed, not unreasonable to attribute some portion of the

ANTIGUA.

diminution in the number of burials to exertions to procure observance of their recommendations.

Miscellaneous Numerical Returns.

14. Nothing under the heads of this form demands especial remark; except, perhaps, that it is worthy of notice that the incidental aid to the fixed revenue derived from lodgments of amounts deposited in the savings' bank has increased in the last year by the sum of 734*l.*, a large per-centage of the whole amount, and that this accession on the total is in the face of a diminution of the sums standing in the books of the institution to the credit of friendly or benefit societies. A just inference will be in favour of the useful working of the establishment, and testify to the increasing disposition on the part of the middle and lower classes to avail themselves of the facilities afforded them for husbanding the small amounts which they may have been enabled to lay aside, and show an increasing appreciation of the benefit accruing from habits of frugality.

Education.

15. On the returns of schools obtained from the different religious denominations appears an increase in the number of day scholars, as against the aggregate in the last report, of 572 in a total of 3,561, a fair progression of more than one seventh in a year. The following summary for 1855 shows the number of schools maintained by the various establishments, and the relative number of pupils both for day and Sunday schools :—

Denomination.	Day Schools.			Sunday Schools.			
	Schools.	Male Scholars.	Female Scholars.	Schools.	Male Scholars.	Female Scholars.	
Church of England -	17	553	448	4	204	191	Total Day Scholars, 3,561.
Moravian - -	15	827	744	9	782	1,054	
Wesleyan - -	6	381	275	10	767	901	
Presbyterian - -	3	56	37	—	—	—	Total Sunday Scholars, 3,899.
Mico Institution -	2	166	74	—	—	—	
	43	1,983	1,578	23	1,753	2,146	

16. I could have wished to record in the present report that the legislature had at last made contribution from the public funds for this common cause of education. As has been remarked by my predecessor, "financial considerations, "not unallied with sectarian jealousies, have hitherto stood in the way of such "provision." Still it is gratifying to know that there have been powerful movements made recently in the right direction. The subject has been much discussed of late in the local newspapers; and some of the most influential members of the community have been devoting careful investigation to the development of the means best adapted to the state of society to which they are to be applied for ensuring the desired object.

17. At a late meeting of the legislature leave was obtained to bring in a Bill for establishing certain educational provisions; and I have sanguine expectation that before the expiration of the first twelve months of my administration I shall have the satisfaction of inaugurating an approved system of legislative aid to sound religious and industrial education.

Imports and Exports.

18. The increase apparently exhibited by this form requires some explanation, as the figures do not display the true proportion of the value of the imports and exports, as compared with those of the preceding year. Up to the period of the abolition of the Imperial customs establishment in this island, at the end of 1854, this return had been obtained from that department, and was made up from mere nominal assigned valuations, which in many instances were far wide of the true cost of the articles. So long as the same system was pursued, the proportion of increase or decrease was perhaps upon the whole fairly appreciated, although the real value of the mercantile transactions of the colony was not accurately obtained.

19. Since the transfer of duties performed by the Imperial customs to the local revenue department it has been endeavoured to arrive at least at an approximation to the true values. The returns for this year have been prepared from declared values and averages of known market rates, and are believed to be more nearly correct than those of previous years.

20. The quantities of produce exported have been quite equal to any for the last ten years, giving an aggregate of more than 12,000 tons of sugar and 1,800 puncheons of rum, with a fair proportion of molasses, these staples being in fact the only articles of export worthy of mention.

QUANTITIES of PRODUCE shipped, 1855.

Sugar.

Hogsheads.	Tierces.	Barrels.	Bags.	Where to.
14,002	1,446½	6,414	28	To Great Britain.
—	—	396	—	To other West Indies.
110	—	561	—	To North America.
136	26	253	—	To United States.
—	—	79	7	To Foreign States.
14,248	1,472½	7,703	28	Total equal to 16,236 hogsheads or 12,197 tons.

Molasses.

Puncheons.	Other Casks.	Where to.
5,753	46	To Great Britain.
129	—	To other West Indies.
494	—	To North America.
72	—	To United States.
1	—	To other Foreign States.
6,449	46	Total.

Rum.

Puncheons.	Hogsheads.	Quarter Casks.	Pipes.	Butts.	Where to.
1,693	126	63	2	3	To Great Britain.
18	3	—	—	—	To West Indies.
61	10	—	—	—	To North America.
10	—	—	—	—	To United States.
1,782	139	63	2	3	

21. The shipping returns forwarded in Sir William Molesworth's despatch, circular, of 22d September 1855, and now embraced in the Blue Book for the first time, are not as complete as it is hoped they will be for the future. The data for their effective preparation have not hitherto been collected with that object; and in the case of the forms 3 and 4, arranging vessels under nationalities, it has been found impossible to furnish the required information.

Agriculture.

22. From the foregoing remarks it will be observed that there is no diminution of agricultural activity. Upon the whole, the production of the last crop has been superior to that of any year since the coming into operation of the Sugar Duties Act of 1846. Attention is paid to the improvements of modern husbandry. Artificial manures, and the other recent appliances of science, are made use of to a great extent; and I learn that there is scarcely an invention for accelerating the manufacture of produce, or increasing the productiveness of the crude material, which has not been tried in this island. It has been found, however, I am informed, that in most cases the outlay necessary for

ANTIGUA.

processes of delicate manufacture is not repaid. The facilities which now exist in the mother country for refining, and the cheapness with which, on a large scale, such operations can be conducted, preclude rivalry on the part of the sugar producing countries in that branch of industry; and it is ascertained that the best of the lower qualities of sugar, which are in demand in England for refining purposes, are the most remunerative to the cane grower. In a word, it is believed that, within certain limits, the object to be striven for by the planter is quantity rather than quality of a higher grade.

Gaols and Prisoners.

23. There is little difference observable in the number of prisoners in confinement at Michaelmas, but an increase of nearly 30 per cent. in the greatest total at any one period of the year, a large proportion caused by a great accession to the amount of summary convictions for minor offences, which has latterly attracted much attention. By some it is considered conclusive evidence of the moral retrogression of the mass of the people, and consequent increase of crime; while by others it is supposed rather to arise from an over-zealous and uncompromising administration by the magistrates, especially in some districts, of the jurisdiction with which they are intrusted. Probably the truth may contain some elements of both explanations. A presumed increase of lawlessness in the people may have caused the justices to exercise less leniency in dealing with offences coming under their cognizance, and so one reason assigned has acted on the other to produce the result of which the origin is sought.

Police.

24. The police force, though in numbers too few to deal with any unexpected emergency, has been brought by the superintendent into a state of discipline and efficiency most creditable to all parties. In the absence of regular troops, and considering the disadvantages incidental to a climate like this, which must always attend any measure of voluntary enrolment, the police establishment should be increased. I have not failed to bring the subject under the consideration of the legislature; but the state of the public finances has been the obstacle to carrying out this and other beneficial public measures.

General State.

25. On reviewing the whole circumstances of the colony for the last year, as shown in the statistics which are before me, and bringing to their elucidation the information I have otherwise been able to collect since my assumption of the government, I believe myself to be justified in reporting decided progress towards the extrication of the community from the difficulties with which it has been beset, in the state of transition through which it has been struggling for some time past.

26. The despondency which has prevailed among the landed interests, and those sections of the community whose fortunes may be said to rest more immediately on the prosperity of the agriculturist, has hitherto prevented the subject of taxation from being adjusted in such a mode as to render the revenue sufficiently buoyant to bear the charges which are inseparable from most attempts to work out schemes for the public advantage. Without doubt, however, the legislature is now better disposed to face these considerations. Early in the present year I had the honour to forward to you an enactment which may be regarded as the first step towards more thoroughly digested measures for raising the means of meeting outstanding liabilities, and at the same time providing the funds for educational and other arrangements, for the benefit more especially of the working classes, which are now in serious contemplation.

27. The fixed revenue of the colony is at present raised almost entirely by import and tonnage duties, 85 per cent. of the whole public income being derived in this mode, and the remainder made up by licences on the sale of liquors, public fines, and a very trivial tax imposed on produce and land, originally instituted for the purpose of enforcing a record, and taking its name of the Record Tax from that circumstance.

28. It will thus be seen that this colony is quite without experience of direct taxation; and the system hitherto pursued has commended itself to the public

mind by the advantage which belongs to it of ease of collection, and the unobtrusive manner in which contributions for the public service are levied by import duties. But the revenue so derived is insufficient to meet the requirements of the colony. The later doctrines of political economy are yet only beginning to force themselves upon the consideration of members of the legislature. It is seen that by the existing fiscal arrangements a large proportion of the finest properties in the colony, whose owners are non-resident, bear little or no portion of the public burdens. So large a proportion of the land being owned by the absent proprietor, whose wealth is spent in other climes, and does not tend to enrich the public Treasury, the revenue of the colony is obtained from those less wealthy proprietors whose circumstances constrain them to a residence in the tropics. While, therefore, it is certain that the application of great principles in small communities will often be influenced by disturbing causes found in local peculiarities, for which it is not always easy to provide compensation, I have no doubt that in making the additions to the funds required for the public service the legislature will proceed to raise them by direct taxation.

29. The heaviest liability under which the colony suffers is the loan from Her Majesty's Government on the occasion of the calamitous earthquake of 1843. I do not now allude to the bulk of the amount lent, which was appropriated to the relief of the necessities of individual sufferers, but to that portion of it which was retained for the public service, and was expended in the repairs of public buildings. It may be said that the strain of this engagement is only now beginning to be felt. At this time the amount chargeable on the public revenues on this score is 21,584*l.* The first instalment from the borrowers was made payable by the colony in May 1845, while that from the colony to the Government was not due until August 1846. In consequence of this anticipation, no immediate payment was required from the colony towards the 20,000*l.*, and the interest was allowed to acccumulate; so that, although the sum of 3,859*l.* 15*s.* 4*d.* has been paid from the public chest during the last two years, the colony is still indebted 21,584*l.* 15*s.* 10*d.*

30. No special mode has been settled for the liquidation of this amount, which forms a heavy draft upon the general revenue of a small colony; and if, when on a recent occasion the legislature petitioned Her Majesty's Government for the remission of the whole obligation of the colony, they had restricted their application to a remission of the portion which must be raised by taxation on a community only just recovering from the struggle of competition between free-labour and slave-grown sugar, their proceedings would at least have met with sympathy, even if they had not secured concurrence. The consciousness that this debt was sitting like an incubus on the finances of the colony has exercised a passive resistance to efforts to procure any public aid to education, or any measures likely to cause enhanced disbursements on account of public institutions, when the existing revenue was barely sufficient to meet already concurrent expenses.

31. The lethargic indifference so easily engendered by depression is now, however, giving way before improving prospects; and the activity which is beginning again to manifest itself by inquiry into other subjects of importance to the well-being of the island will be extended to the financial position of the colony.

32. The true difficulty which has to be encountered is the condition of the labouring classes, embracing the questions of supply of labour, the apparent moral retrogradation of the people, as shown by a seeming increase of crime, and the tendency to decrease in the population, evinced by an excess of deaths over births, for which statistics claim our consideration. All these are subjects engaging earnest attention at the present time.

33. The resources of the island could unquestionably be developed to a much greater extent; its production might be almost doubled, if the labourer could but be taught to appreciate the comforts of life which are to be obtained by the exercise of more continuous industry. It is not that the population is numerically deficient for this end, but that the inducements to labour which prevail in more northern climates have here no influence over the peasantry; and in effect scarcely more than one third of the number shown as inhabiting the rural districts are ever at one time engaged in agricultural employment.

ANTIGUA.

34. From information, based upon statistics which a short while since some trouble was taken to obtain, it was ascertained that the number of resident labourers on estates was under 6,500. This number, with those residing in the villages which have sprung into existence since 1834, afford an aggregate in round numbers of 21,000. Of these 21,000, upon what is represented to me as unexceptionable testimony, it was made apparent that not more than 8,000 were at work on estates on a given day, and that day one at a period of the year at which a full proportion were likely to be employed. These facts, after every allowance shall have been made for infants, infirm persons, and some who may have been employed in their own grounds, must be admitted to testify to a very great amount of indolence and vagabondism in the rural population, as well as to the difficulty of coercing labour by legitimate modes in a climate where man is naturally indisposed to exertion, and nature is bountiful to prodigality in the means of satisfying his uneducated wants.

35. I fear that there is too good evidence of increase in the number of minor offences, and the calendar of the Court of Queen's Bench exhibits no diminution in the catalogue of graver breaches of the law.

36. I have before adverted to the difference of opinion which exists on this subject, under the head of gaols and prisoners; but, after weighing the testimony dispassionately, it appears to be a just conclusion that there has been for some time a tendency to such an increase, which has now been swollen to a magnitude which can scarcely be accounted for by assigning the alleged strictness of the magistracy as the reason. Chief Justice Sir Robert Horsford has ably and perseveringly insisted on attention to this subject, in his addresses from time to time to the grand jury. He entertains a settled conviction that the evil does exist; and, viewed in connexion with other circumstances in the social condition of the community, there is nothing which forcibly opposes this belief. What can be expected but plunder and depredation, with their concomitants, from youths of nomadic habits, who have no settled abode; who are not to be found for two weeks, in some cases scarcely for two days, in the same part of the island; and there are unfortunately only too many such in this community?

37. Undoubtedly the present evils are to a great extent chargeable upon the extinct institution of slavery. There is little mystery as to their rise. So long as the same set of labouring men lasted, the alteration which had been initiated was not so seriously felt; but it occurred to no one to predict what must follow when that state of things should pass away, and one generation of men be substituted for another, influenced by a change of manners and usages. The force of old habits engendered by long custom survived for a time, and bore better fruit than could have been anticipated in the great and unprecedented change in the condition of the community. But the young population, as they grew up, have been found to be very much what should have been expected as the production of an abnormal state. The old restraints of feudal attachment were by degrees shaken off, without their wholesome checks being as yet supplied by family obligations or the power of self-government.

38. If these inevitable results had been foreseen and guarded against, as far as man could do so, by salutary provisions for educating the rising generation to a sense of their obligations, much at least of these evils might have been mitigated. As it is, the community pays the penalty of its neglect.

39. A proposition I made to the legislative houses for bringing home more decidedly to the labouring classes the benefits of systematic and efficient medical treatment is now being very generally discussed.

40. It has been found, as I have already remarked under the head of population, that great carelessness prevails among the peasantry on the score of health, and that many cases of illness prove fatal which with the most ordinary caution would easily be kept under control. It is suggested that if the expense is provided from the public funds, which might be augmented for this special purpose by many modes in which the labourer would contribute his fair proportion, it would not be difficult to have medical officers appointed to designated districts, and to establish dispensaries in stated localities, at which application could be made for professional aid. Under needful restrictions, arrangements could be settled entitling all residents of the humbler classes within each district to the services of such medical officer; and it is believed that when they find themselves able to obtain the advice, and attendance in

extreme cases of competent professional men, without the necessity of parting for that special object with gains which they are only too apt to prefer to dispose of otherwise, the labouring population will gladly avail themselves of the relief so placed at their command.

41. The scheme is in fact a further development of what has already been brought into action in St. Kitts, where the children under a certain age are provided with medical care at the public expense, under arrangements somewhat analogous to those I have mentioned.

Concluding Observations.

42. I have dwelt at some length on the points which form the chief obstacle to what might otherwise be the rapid advance of the colony to a state of prosperity. Without understanding what must be guarded against we can expect little benefit from remedial measures, selected by chance and applied at random. But even in the recognition of the difficulties which have to be surmounted we may admit the existence of grounds for hopefulness as to the future.

43. Although there has been a great diminution in the value of tropical produce, and the labour of plantation cultivation has proved in various years unremunerative, yet, upon the whole, the success of the cultivation by free labour of the valuable staple commodities of the West Indies in well-peopled colonies is demonstrated by the results produced in this island, as well as in the neighbouring island of Barbados; and experience has sufficed to convince the public mind that there is no sufficient cause for despondency in the agricultural condition of the West Indian colonies. The fictitious value which property had at one time acquired was in itself the occasion of much suffering and evil; and the changes of late years may perhaps be considered as having served to ascertain the actual value of property. On the other hand, although the bulk of the people no longer languish in a country whose products yield an immense return, but enjoy in security advantages which they may obtain by a moderate amount of labour, yet it must be admitted that they have not improved in that degree which might have been expected from a free people. The change in their condition from slavery to freedom was (perhaps unavoidably) abrupt, and beneficial restrictions, of which even serfdom was not wholly destitute, were suddenly withdrawn without the imposition of new and more wholesome restraints. No legislative grant for the education of the labouring classes was then made; and at that momentous juncture sufficient care was not taken to lay the foundations of moral principle for their guidance in their new career. It is a proof of the tractable nature of the people of African descent, that things are not worse. But attention to the subject has been effectually awakened; and there has been a general response to the duty of making efforts to meet evils which, if allowed to exist and spread, will prove prejudicial to the welfare of the community. At present there is the general consent of thoughtful and reasonable men to the truth of Earl Grey's observation, contained in his circular despatch to the governors of West Indian colonies, dated the 26th January 1847, that it would perhaps be impossible to adduce an instance of any country of which the agricultural and commercial prospects were so absolutely dependent on the instruction of the lower orders as those of the West Indies.

I have, &c.
KER B. HAMILTON.

MONTSERRAT.

MONTSERRAT.

No. 21.

No. 21.

Copy of a DESPATCH from Governor Hamilton to the Right Honourable H. Labouchere, M.P.

(Montserrat, No. 14.)

Leeward Islands, Antigua, April 9, 1856.

Sir, (Received May 1, 1856.)

I have the honour to transmit herewith, in duplicate, the "Blue Book" of Montserrat for the year 1855, together with a copy of the Despatch in which it has been forwarded to me by Mr. President Rushworth.

I have, &c.

(Signed) KER B. HAMILTON.

Enclosure in No. 21.

(No. 18. Executive.)

Sir, Montserrat, March 15, 1856.

1. I have the honour to transmit herewith to your Excellency the statistical returns composing the Blue Book of Montserrat for the year 1855, accompanied at the same time with such remarks as appear to me necessary to illustrate the general condition of the island during that period.

2. It is gratifying to me to be able to report to your Excellency that the financial difficulties under which the island has been labouring for many years past are now gradually subsiding, and I trust that the improvement in this respect may, by the observance of the strictest economy throughout every branch of the public expenditure, prove to be of a permanent and progressive character.

Section 1.—*Imports and Exports.*

1. The returns furnished exhibit, on the one hand, a falling off in the estimated value of Imports, and, on the other, an increase in that of our Exports, when compared with the year preceding:—the decrease in our import trade being 1,259*l.* 10*s.* 8*d.*, and the increase in our export trade being 5,470*l.* 9*s.*

	£	*s.*	*d.*
The estimated amount of Imports in 1854 being -	8,963	12	7
,, ,, 1855 ,, -	7,704	1	11
That of Exports in 1854 ,, -	14,515	13	0
,, 1855 ,, -	19,986	2	0

The decrease in our import trade is, however, to be chiefly ascribed to the accidental circumstance of the usual supply of goods for the Christmas market in the past year not having arrived till the month of January in this year, the ships from England having made long passages during that season to the West Indies.

2. The entire trade of Montserrat is confined to the neighbouring islands, all direct communication having for several years ceased with either England, the British Possessions in North America, or the United States.

3. The large increase of the estimated value of the Exports has not arisen from an increase in the culture of our staple produce, as the following return will show a trifling decrease in our chief article of export, viz., sugar, but from the estimate made by the colonial secretary as to the value of this commodity during the past year: in 1854 the sugar of this island was estimated at a value of 8*l.* and 9*l.* per hogshead. In 1855 the secretary has valued the export

of sugar for the whole year at 17*l.* per hogshead; this rate, as far as I can learn, the planters here consider excessive, and which they declare they have not themselves realized; about 13*l.* or 14*l.* per hogshead would, I am inclined to believe, be a fairer average.

RETURN of the QUANTITY of SUGAR exported in the Years 1854 and 1855.

YEAR.	Sugar.			Equal to average sized Hogshead.
	Hhds.	*Tierces.*	*Barrels.*	
Exported in 1854 - -	687	334	505	973
„ 1855 - -	767	261	222	968
Decrease in 1855 - - - - -	5 Hhds.			

Section 2.—*Revenue and Expenditure.*

1. The amount of customs duties raised in the year 1855 is 1,440*l.* 4*s.* 11½*d.*, showing a decrease of 126*l.* 1*s.* 10½*d.* when compared with the duties raised in the preceding year.

1854.	£	*s.*	*d.*
Import duty - - -	1,011	14	1
Export duty - - -	554	12	9
Total - -	1,566	6	10

1855.	£	*s.*	*d.*
Import duty - - -	885	10	2½
Export duty - - -	554	14	9
Total - -	1,440	4	11½

This decrease has, as I have before observed, arisen from the falling off in the import trade in the last quarter of the year 1855, owing to the accidental delay in the arrival of the usual supply of goods.

2. The two following returns will best show the actual financial position of the island for the year ended the 31st December 1855.

STATEMENT of the PUBLIC GENERAL ACCOUNT of the Island of MONTSERRAT for the Year 1855.

RETURN No. 1.

ARREARS of REVENUE. Last Year, viz.:—

	£	*s.*	*d.*
Property Tax - - -	116	13	5½
Board of Health - -	2	14	6
Loan Commissioners - -	39	6	9
Cash in chest on 31st December 1854 - - - -	111	11	9¾
£	270	6	6¼

1855.			
Import duty - - -	885	10	2½
Export duty - - -	554	14	9
Public fines - - -	47	19	5¾
Liquor licence - -	60	0	0
Tonnage duty - - -	20	10	0
Porter's licence - -	1	18	8
Property tax - - -	1,074	4	6¼
Forfeited goods - -	4	2	6
Loan Commissioners (this sum includes 122*l.* 11*s.* 6*d.* realized by the sale of certain encumbered estates) - -	378	18	0
Loan deposit fund - -	20	9	10½
Proceeds of encumbered estates of 1854 - -	181	14	10
£	3,230	2	10

OUTSTANDING REVENUE OF 1855.

	£	*s.*	*d.*
Due by Committee of North Estates - - -	10	9	6
Due for rental of Fort Barrington	26	15	6
Due by Board of Health - -	2	8	0
In the hands of the Loan Commissioners - - -	19	8	0
£	59	11	0

RECAPITULATION OF REVENUE.

	£	*s.*	*d.*
Arrears of 1854 - -	270	6	6¼
Revenue of 1855 - -	3,230	2	10
Outstanding Revenue of 1855 -	59	11	0
Estimated proceeds of loan encumbered estates remaining unsold on the 31st December 1855 - - -	100	0	0
Balance against the Public on the 31st December 1855 - -	7	5	5½
Total - £	3,667	5	9¾

MONTSERRAT.

ARREARS OF EXPENDITURE OF 1854.

	£	s.	d.
Civil, Judicial, and Ecclesiastical Establishment	664	8	10
Board of Poor Law Guardians	43	3	2
Board of Health	15	0	0
Loan Commissioners	30	0	0
Jail Expenses	63	17	1¼
Contingencies	51	18	8½
Road Expenses	13	19	7
£	882	7	4¾

EXPENDITURE OF 1855, viz.:

Loan Commissioners	921	1	2
Civil Establishment (for nine months)	573	12	3
Judicial ditto ditto	210	18	9
Ecclesiastical ditto ditto	155	16	7½
Roads	12	3	2¾
Poor Establishment	375	9	0¾
Miscellaneous Expenses	37	9	0½
Public Grant	50	0	0
Tonnage Duty refunded	0	7	6
Jail and Penal Gang	40	8	11
£	2,381	16	6½

ARREARS OF EXPENDITURE OF 1855, viz..

	£	s.	d.
Civil Establishment (for three months)	186	4	1
Judicial ditto ditto	70	6	3
Ecclesiastical ditto ditto	51	18	10½
Poor Establishment	16	17	11½
Contingencies	77	14	8½
£	403	1	10½

RECAPITULATION OF EXPENDITURE.

	£	s.	d.
Arrears of Expenditure of 1854	882	7	4¾
Expenditure of 1855	2,381	16	6½
Arrears of Expenditure of 1855	403	1	10½
£	3,667	5	9¾

RETURN No. 2.

STATEMENT of SALARIES and CLAIMS outstanding against the TREASURY on the 31st December 1855, with the actual Amount to meet the same in the Colonial Chest on that day.

	£	s.	d.
Salaries due to the 31st December 1855	308	9	2½
Poor Expenses	16	17	11½
Contingencies	77	14	8½
£	403	1	10½

	£	s.	d.
Cash in Chest on the 31st December to meet the above charges	236	5	5
Deficiency	166	16	5½
£	403	1	10½

This deficiency is reduced, as appears by Return No. 1., to the sum of 7*l.* 5*s.* 5½*d.* by the following items of outstanding revenue:

	£	s.	d.
Arrears of Revenue	59	11	0
Loan Estates	100	0	0
Deficiency	7	5	5½
	£166	16	5½

3. I have had the above returns prepared for the purpose of showing your Excellency more clearly than the forms in the Blue Book will admit of, the actual position of the Public Treasury at the close of the past year; and when contrasted with the state of the Treasury at the close of the preceding year, a marked improvement is manifest. In the year ended the 31st December 1854 the claims outstanding against the public account amounted to 882*l.* 7*s.* 4¾*d.*, with cash and arrears of revenue to meet the same, amounting in all to 270*l.* 6*s.* 6¼*d.*, leaving a deficiency to be made good in the following year of 612*l.* 0*s.* 10½*d.*; while in the year ended the 31st December 1855 the claims outstanding against the island amounted to 403*l.* 1*s.* 10½*d.*, with cash and arrears of revenue to meet the same amounting to 395*l.* 16*s.* 5*d.*, leaving only the trifling deficiency of 7*l.* 5*s.* 5½*d.*

4. During the past year I have succeeded in effecting considerable reductions in the various items of the Miscellaneous Expenditure, more especially that comprised under the heads of Poor Relief and the Maintenance of the Prisoners in the Gaol. The system heretofore pursued in this island with regard to these two items has been to leave this expenditure entirely in the hands of a contractor, whose contracts, moreover, were not discharged until

the same had passed through the Committee of Audit of Public Accounts, and, as very long intervals were allowed by this committee to elapse between each sitting, all the charges were most exorbitant. (The last sitting of this committee was held in September 1855, and prior to that date there had not been a single meeting for the preceding twenty months.) All the charges for the poor are now under the immediate control and supervision of the Chairman of the Board of Poor Law Guardians, and those for the gaol under that of the Provost Marshal. All articles are supplied for cash prices, and the accounts are laid before me for my inspection at the expiration of each month, and then paid by my warrant on the Treasury. The result has been a saving of upwards of fifty per cent.; and the poor, moreover, are better fed and cared for under the present system than the former one, and the chairman has reported to me that the change has worked most beneficially in every way.

5. Another system that has long been prevalent in this island of voting not only the salaries of the public officers, but all grants of money by simple resolutions of the Legislature, has occasioned many of the financial embarrassments under which Montserrat has for several years laboured; and for the purpose of placing a final check to this wasteful mode of frittering away the small resources of the island I announced to the Legislature at the opening of the new General Assembly on the 1st November last, that it was my determination to decline henceforward according the assent of the Executive to grants of money under simple resolutions, and that in future where grants of money may be required either for the public service, or for the salaries of the public officers, the practice adopted in all the other colonies of having each item included in bills to be passed in the ordinary course through each branch of the Legislature must be rigidly adhered to.

6. The sound policy of this course has been assented to by both branches of the Legislature. The Legislative Council in their reply observed, "That "we concur in the wisdom of abolishing the practice which has crept into "the Legislature of voting grants of the public money by simple resolu- "tions, and in future whenever such grants shall become expedient we shall "adhere to the more regular and constitutional formula indicated by your "Honour."

The House of Assembly in their address likewise stated, "That as regards "the system of voting grants of money under simple resolutions, it has long "obtained with us, but we cannot but admit that it will be far better to lay "aside this practice, and adopt the one of including in bills to be passed in "the ordinary course all sums of money which it may be necessary to expend "for the public service."

The discontinuance of this system has at the outset occasioned some dissatisfaction, not only among a portion of the Assembly, who for many years past have contrived out of this description of votes to eke out a livelihood for themselves and their connexions, but also among several of the small traders and others engaged in mercantile pursuits in the island: these last were always enabled on account of the necessities of the majority of the holders of these orders on the treasury (for it mattered but little to the Legislature whether there was money or not in the treasury at the time the resolutions were passed) to purchase the same at a discount varying from ten to thirty per cent., and even sometimes at a greater depreciation; they then either paid the orders at par into the treasury for their own taxes, or, should they hold in their hands more than sufficient for their own wants, sold them to the planters for the like purpose, taking from the latter bills of exchange on their merchants in England, and thus realizing a very considerable profit for themselves by the transaction.

7. The change, notwithstanding all the opposition I have had to encounter, will, I am firmly convinced, be most salutary, not only for the treasury, but ultimately for all parties, and large sums heretofore squandered in this way will be saved, and taxation will in like proportion be lessened on the entire community.

Section 3.—*Earthquake Loan.*

1. The amount due on the 1st May 1855 to the Imperial Government on account of the annual instalment and interest of this loan was 1,360*l.* 2*s.* 6*d.*

MONTSERRAT.

1,036*l.* 19*s.* 8*d.* of this sum was on account of the debt contracted by private borrowers, and 823*l.* 2*s.* 10*d.* was the amount chargeable on the public treasury.

2. The whole of this sum was remitted to the Imperial Government with greater exactitude and promptitude than has been the case in former years, 223*l.* 5*s.* 7*d.* having been remitted in advance on the 14th February, 909*l.* 11*s.* 2*d.* on the 11th May, and the remainder, 737*l.* 6*s.* 1*d.*, on the 9th June, making in all the total of 1,870*l.* 2*s.* 10*d.*, giving a surplus of 10*l.* 0*s.* 4*d.* for the purpose of covering any incidental expenses that might arise in the negotiation of the bills of exchange.

3. The portion of the debt that has now to be defrayed out of the colonial treasury in consequence of the nonpayment of such amount by the private borrowers weighs very heavily on the scanty resources of the island. The original sum borrowed by the colony for public purposes being 3,000*l.*, the annual instalment (of which amount to be repaid) being 150*l.*, and the amount of interest thereon (due the 1st May last) being 92*l.* 12*s.* 6*d.*, in all 242*l.* 12*s.* 6*d.* The difference, therefore, between that amount and 823*l.* 2*s.* 10*d.*, viz., 580*l.* 10*s.* 4*d.*, had to be drawn from the general taxation of the island to meet the deficiency occasioned by the nonfulfilment of the engagements of the private borrowers.

4. On the 1st May 1856 the private borrowers will have to discharge for the instalment of the principal 663*l.* 12*s.*, and for interest 387*l.* 14*s.* 1*d.*, in all 1,051*l.* 6*s.* 1½*d.*

5. The Colonial Treasury will have to discharge on account of the instalment of the principal 486*l.* 8*s.*, and on account of interest 285*l.* 0*s.* 10½*d.*, in all 771*l.* 8*s.* 10½*d.*

Making the amount due on account of this loan on the 1st May 1856 by Montserrat as follows:

	£	s.	d.
Private borrowers - -	1,051	6	1½
Public treasury - - -	771	8	10½
Total - -	1,822	15	0

6. I have annexed to this Report a return, drawn up by the Loan Commissioners, showing the sugar estates and other properties thrown on the public, with the names of the borrowers, and the amounts originally advanced, the sums for which they have been sold, and the loss that has to be sustained by the island.

Section 4.—*Crime and Prisoners.*

1. I am happy to be able to report to your Excellency very favourably on the orderly and peaceable state of the population of the island. The stipendiary magistrate, in his annual report for the year 1855, makes the following remarks: "The pleasing and gratifying observations I was happily enabled to "make on this subject for the year 1854 are justly applicable to the year now "recently terminated, that there was a total absence of crime of an atrocious "and flagitious nature, such as homicide or destroying the life of man "in its various stages of guilt, robbery, burglary, arson, or any other crime "which would indicate the delinquent to be of a depraved, corrupted, and "vicious nature, totally abandoned by all sense of moral consciousness and "integrity.

"So great has been the immunity of the colony from crime of a grave "aspect that his Honour the Chief Justice, in his charges to the grand jury on "several of his recent periodical official visits to the island, has spoken thereof "in terms of high encomium and congratulation."

2. The convictions on indictable offences for the year were nine in number: —four males for larceny, four males for assaults and batteries, and one woman for wounding with intent to injure another woman.

3. In the convictions before the magistrates there has been an increase of 37 cases, when compared with the number in the year preceding.

The total number of persons convicted in	1855 was	-	259
Ditto ditto	1854 „	-	222
Excess in 1855 over the previous year	„	-	37

On this point the stipendiary magistrate observes: "I am of opinion that "every year there are more persons sent to gaol on summary conviction than "would be the case were the magistracy enabled to add in certain cases the "punishment of hard labour to their sentences. The prevailing nature of the "offences (committals on conviction for which enlarge the number in confine- "ment) are for riotous or disorderly conduct, abusing or provoking language "tending to a breach of the peace, and assaults and batteries, the law in these "respects only awards simple imprisonment in default of payment of a fine. "There are a class of persons by whom offences of the above description are "most generally committed, to whom confinement alone in prison has no "terror, and who in many instances, although they have the money to pay "the fines imposed, refuse to do so, preferring to be sent to gaol. I would "respectfully suggest and submit that the law in these and similar occasions "of the summary and inexpensive modes of proceeding should be so amended "that the justices of the peace should be armed with the discretionary power "of pronouncing a sentence to hard labour, either alone or in the event of a "refusal or inability to pay the pecuniary mulct. I am satisfied that then the "parties would be more careful not to offend, or would, if they did, oftener "elect to pay than to be imprisoned."

4. It is much to be regretted that the law, as it at present stands, is in the above respects so faulty in this island, and further that the local legislature have as yet shown no disposition to provide the remedies necessary to meet these defects. The stipendiary magistrate, Mr. Harris, also a member of the Legislative Council, has prepared bills, similar to the Acts in England, for facilitating the performance of the duties of the magistracy, and I trust that these measures will shortly receive the attention of the Assembly, and that on the next occasion of transmitting my annual report to your Excellency I shall be able to report the good effects that I feel confident will result from their adoption.

I have, &c.

(Signed) EDWARD E. RUSHWORTH.

His Excellency the Governor in Chief,
&c. &c. &c.

Account of Sugar Estates and other Properties thrown on the Public, with the Amounts lent on them, the Amounts for which some sold, and the Loss sustained.

Sugar Estates.	Borrowers.	Amount borrowed.			Amount obtained by the Public.			Losses sustained by the Public.			
		£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	
Paradise - -	W. D. Furlonge -	1,250	0	0	350	0	0	900	0	0	These properties were sold to be paid for in four instalments, two of which have been paid, and the third will be due on the 1st May 1856.
Baryeys - -	J. P. Trote -	1,300	0	0	106	0	0	1,194	0	0	
Brades and Little Bay - -	J. P. Trote -	1,850	0	0	210	0	0	1,640	0	0	
OTHER PROPERTIES.											
Harris - -	Quechy Shiell -	600	0	0	100	0	0	500	0	0	The amounts of these properties have been paid up.
Virgin Islands -	Joseph Lindersay	61	0	0	3	0	0	58	0	0	
Lands, Misses Hill	Misses Hill - -	60	0	0	23	10	0	36	10	0	
„ J.A.Dowdy	J. A. Dowdy -	30	0	0	20	0	0	10	0	0	
	£	5,151	0	0	812	10	0	4,338	10	0	

MONTSERRAT.

The under-mentioned Properties are in the Hands of the Loan Commissioners, and to be sold for the Benefit of the Public.

Properties.	Borrowers.	Amount Borrowed. £	s.	d.
Underwoods - - - -	J. P. Trote - - - -	195	0	0
Lands, Lucy M'Namara - -	Lucy M'Namara - - -	25	0	0
„ R. K. Dyete, deceased - -	J. K. Percy, Trustee to Judith Dyete and Children - - -	118	0	0
A portion of the lands of the Misses Hill - - - -	See above Return.			
Gerrald's Estate - - -	William Shiell, Executor to Joseph Gerrald - - - -	445	0	0
Dobridge and Percy - -	John Dobridge and J. K. Percy, Executors to R. Dobridge - -	33	0	0
Houses and Lands of Edward Miller -	J. P. Trote, Trustee to Martha Miller	230	0	0
	Total -	1,046	0	0

(Signed) ROBERT SAUNDERS,
Chairman of the Loan Commissioners.

ST. KITTS.

ST. KITTS.

No. 22.

No. 22.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor HAMILTON to the Right Hon. H. LABOUCHERE.

(No. 17.)

Leeward Islands, Antigua, May 10, 1856.
(Received June 5, 1856.)

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to forward the "Blue Book" of St. Kitts for the year 1855, and Lieut.-Governor Robinson's report upon the general condition and prospects of the island.

2. The question of the system of education best suited for the labouring classes in these colonies, being one in which the Queen's Government has taken peculiar interest, Lieut.-Governor Robinson's remarks under this head will attract your attention. So deeply did Lord Grey feel the importance of the subject, that in 1847 his lordship suggested the enactment of well-considered laws to constrain parents to send their young children to some school. The Education Act commented on by Lieut.-Governor Robinson seems to be grounded on a judicious consideration of the actual circumstances of the colony and the habits of the people.

I have, &c.

The Right Hon. H. Labouchere, &c. &c. &c.

(Signed) KER B. HAMILTON.

Encl. in No. 22.

Enclosure in No. 22.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Lieut.-Governor ROBINSON to Governor HAMILTON.

(No. 26.)

SIR,

Saint Christopher, April 14, 1856.

Blue Book in duplicate.

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Excellency the Blue Book of St. Kitts for the year 1855, availing myself at the same time of the opportunity thus afforded me of offering a few remarks upon the general condition and prospects of the island.

2. The financial condition of the colony, strange as such an assertion must appear coming from a West Indian Island, may be pronounced thoroughly sound and satisfactory. The colony is altogether free from debt, and notwithstanding that the year 1855 commenced, as pointed out in my report of last year, with liabilities unprovided for to the extent of upwards of 2,000*l.* sterling, consequent upon the heavy outlay incurred during the visitation of Asiatic cholera in the latter part of the previous year, there was in the treasury on the 31st of December last, after deducting the amount of all liabilities due to that

date, a surplus balance of more than 1,700*l.* available for the services of the present year, as will be seen by the following statement:

	£	*s.*	*d.*
Balance in Treasurer's hands upon 1st January 1856 -	3,782	4	0
Deduct liabilities due to 31st December 1855 - -	2,043	18	0
Balance available for services of 1856 - - -	1,738	6	0

Revenue and Expenditure.

3. The revenue of 1855 exceeds that of 1854 by 527*l.* 17*s.* 1*d.*, being respectively 14,644*l.* 8*s.* 6*d.* and 15,172*l.* 5*s.* 7*d.*; whilst the expenditure for the same period is diminished by 7,212*l.* 6*s.* 3*d.*, being, in 1854, 19,994*l.* 11*s.* 5*d.*, and in 1855 12,782*l.* 5*s.* 2*d.* The augmentation of income and reduction of outlay thus aggregating 7,740*l.* 3*s.* 4*d.*

4. The increase in the revenue is attributable to the imposition by the legislature in February 1855, for two years, of an additional 15 per cent. upon the then existing duties, in order to compensate in some measure for the extraordinary expenditure incurred during the visitation of cholera; but for this wise provision the revenue would have exhibited a corresponding decrease, the epidemic having affected unfavorably both the imports and exports of last year. The revenue collected during each of the five past years was as follows:—

	£	*s.*	*d.*
1851 - - -	17,902	11	11
1852 - - -	13,265	14	8
1853 - - -	14,206	16	1
1854 - - -	14,644	8	6
1855 - - -	15,172	5	7

5. The large decrease in the expenditure is to be ascribed both to the reduction in the heavy sanitary disbursements, which swell the expenditure of 1854, and also to the strict economy observed, and the consequent retrenchment effected, during the past year in almost every department of the public service. It is satisfactory to observe that, notwithstanding the payment of the remnant of cholera expenses amounting to nearly 1,400*l.*, and the outlay of upwards of 600*l.* in the completion of the pier, the expenditure of 1855 is, without any sacrifice of efficiency, lower than that of several previous years. The following is a statement of the expenditure for each of the last five years:

	£	*s.*	*d.*
1851 - - -	14,672	7	6½
1852 - - - -	13,090	10	11
1853 - - -	12,632	11	0
1854 - - -	19,994	11	5
1855 - - - -	12,782	5	2

6. The financial prospect for the present year is very satisfactory. I annex a return showing the probable revenue and expenditure for 1856, by which it is estimated that the revenue will exceed the ordinary expenditure by more than 5,000*l.* sterling, an excess, however, not disproportionate to the required outlay upon the proposed new church in the town of Basseterre, and the other public works at present in progress.

FINANCIAL ESTIMATE for 1856.

ORDINARY EXPENDITURE.	£	*s.*	*d.*	ESTIMATED REVENUE.	£	*s.*	*d.*
Fixed Establishment - -	8,000	0	0	Balance in hand on 1st January after deducting liabilities of 1855 - - - -	1,738	0	0
Public institutions - -	1,680	0	0	Import duties and tonnage -	10,800	0	0
Incidental and miscellaneous -	790	0	0	Export duties and house tax -	3,500	0	0
Roads and bridges - -	1,300	0	0	Other sources - - -	850	0	0
Total ordinary expenditure	11,770	0	0				
Excess of income over ordinary expenditure - -	5,118	0	0				
	£16,888	0	0		£16,888	0	0

ST. KITTS.

Imports and Exports.

7. There is a decrease in the estimated value of the imports as compared with 1854, amounting to 11,867*l.* 9*s.* 3*d.*, the value of imports for 1855 being returned at 96,097*l.* 11*s.* 4*d.*, whereas for the previous year it was 107,965*l.* 0*s.* 7*d.* The exports on the other hand exhibit an increase from 133,089*l.* 9*s.* 2*d.* in 1854 to 144,641*l.* 12*s.* 3*d.* in 1855, showing an improvement of 11,552*l.* 3*s.* 1*d.* in the latter year. The exports of the year, it will be observed, have exceeded the imports by 48,544*l.* 0*s.* 11*d.*

8. The falling off in the value of the imports is to be accounted for by the necessarily diminished consumption of a population reduced by one sixth of its number. The imports for 1855, nevertheless, exceed in value the average of the five previous years.

9. The increase in the value of the exports arises from the improvement in the sugar market at home, the quantity of produce exported in 1855 not quite equalling that of the previous year in consequence of the cessation of all field labour during, and for a short time subsequent to, the prevalence of cholera, a result, the probability of which was foreshown in my report of last year. Notwithstanding that the cultivation of the estates was resumed with as little delay as possible, and is being carried on at present with energy and skill, I fear that the cessation of labour mentioned above will affect still more injuriously the production of the present year, in consequence of its having occurred at that season when the planting of the crop for 1856 should have been in full operation. I append to this despatch, a tabular statement showing at a glance the revenue, expenditure, value of imports, value of exports, and quantity of produce exported for each of the last fifty-three years, which presents on the whole gratifying evidence of the progressive improvement of this colony during a number of years, for although no very considerable increase in productiveness is observable during the last thirty years, yet when the eventful changes of that period are borne in mind, I hold that the fact of no permanent retrogression having taken place must be considered as a result eminently satisfactory; and the manner in which difficulties and dangers to which others have succumbed have here been boldly encountered and successfully overcome, as fully evidenced by this return, cannot fail to encourage feelings of thankfulness for the past and hope for the future. The following is a statement abstracted from this paper of the production of sugar for the last three years as compared with the last three under protective duties, and also with the same period immediately preceding the abolition of slavery.

Paper A. in Appendix. Page 199.

	Hhds.		Hhds.		Hhds.
1832	6,494	1844	7,736	1853	7,053
1833	5,614	1845	7,542	1854	8,005
1834	7,727	1846	5,837	1855	7,245
	19,825		21,115		22,303

10. A comparison of the nine years which have elapsed since the alteration in the commercial policy of the British Empire in 1846, with a similar term prior to that change is equally favourable, being as follows:

Sugar exported for nine years, from 1838 to 1846 inclusive - 56,357
Ditto ditto from 1847 to 1855 inclusive - 57,941

Public Works.

11. The public roads have been maintained in a state of efficient repair during the past year at a very reasonable cost; the amount expended on this service being only 522*l.*, or little more than one-half of the annual grant of 1,000*l.* sterling appropriated by legislative enactment for this purpose.

12. The pier or jetty, nearly 200 feet in length, constructed upon wooden piles, commenced in 1854, has been completed during the past year; the total cost of this undertaking amounted to 980*l.* 4*s.* 7*d.*, an outlay by no means extravagant, considering the advantage derived by the public in being enabled to embark and disembark, or land and ship goods, without risk or inconvenience in almost any weather.

13. The operations for supplying the town of Basseterre with water from the neighbouring mountains have not progressed during the past year. The metal pipes are, however, at the present moment being conveyed by means of penal labour to their destination, and I hope that this desirable project will be considerably advanced during the present year.

14. The new cemetery in the vicinity of Basseterre has been consecrated by the Lord Bishop of the diocese; the enclosure wall is in course of erection, and interments therein are shortly to commence.

15. There appears to be, at last, some prospect of obtaining a suitable parish church in the town of Basseterre. The old building is in a state of total dilapidation, and having been declared unsafe, threatens daily to crush the congregation. The skeleton wooden erection which stands on one side, commonly described as the "new church," commenced so far back as 1844, but never completed, notwithstanding the injudicious outlay upon it of, I understand, nearly 7,000*l.* sterling, has also been condemned, and is to be removed. The legislature have passed an act authorizing a commission, nominated by the executive, to proceed to the erection, upon the site of the old church, of a suitable structure capable of containing fifteen hundred persons, at a cost not exceeding 3,750*l.* in addition to the materials of the old buildings; and the commissioners, having procured plans and specifications from a competent architect in England, are now in a position to commence immediate operations.

Legislation.

16. Considerable activity has been evinced by the deliberative branches of the legislature during the past year, no less than thirteen measures having become law in that period. The most important are "an Act to encourage the "immigration of agricultural labourers, by means of a small tax upon exports," also "an Act to raise a fund by imposition of a tax upon provision grounds, and "to regulate the distribution thereof in aid of the schools for the education of "the industrial classes in this island." These and others to which I need hardly now more particularly advert, their substance being fully described in the columns of the blue book, amply testify to the spirit of justice and liberality which has animated the legislation of 1855.

Labour.

17. The "labour question," so vitally affecting as it does the staple productions, and consequently the future welfare and advancement of the colony, demands especial notice. The mutual relations existing between the employer and the employed as found in the mother country are here almost entirely reversed. Instead of a severe struggle on the part of the mass of the population, by offers of cheap labour, to secure a bare subsistence, the employer here is striving by a desperate offer of wages, frequently higher than the ruling price of produce will admit of, to obtain a sufficiency of labour. The natural compulsion on the unskilled labourer, which in England is almost irresistible, involving his very existence, bears here no proportion to that upon the employer; the wants of the working class are few and simple, and those absolute requirements which a bountiful nature has not already provided are procurable by a very few days of desultory labour in each month. If, therefore, from idleness, caprice, or any other cause, the labourer chooses to abstain from work, he can do so without entailing upon himself or his family that privation and suffering which necessarily accompanies a similar course at home. That the working classes here labour in the cane fields even to the extent they do must be attributed, I conceive, rather to their inordinate love of dress and to other extravagant follies and vices for the gratification of which a certain amount of ready money is required, than to the existence of any difficulty in obtaining otherwise the actual means of subsistence; and under these circumstances it can scarcely be wondered at that the labourer, as it were, puts his services up to auction and allows the planter to bid for them, awaiting the issue with indifference, since, if not tempted by or satisfied with the offer, there exists no absolute necessity for his working at all.

ST. KITTS.

18. The position of the planters, on the other hand, is one of considerable embarrassment. With a resident labouring population, far more than sufficient in point of actual numbers to meet all their requirements, they are unable to obtain a continuous supply of even two thirds of the labour called for, and not even this small amount with any regularity and certainty, or without considerable sacrifice on their parts. Wages are not regulated by a just regard to the fair relations between capital and labour, or with any direct regard to the cost of subsistence, but are influenced altogether by the laws of demand and supply, and the supply of unskilled labour which is available being far short of the demand, it follows that the price of such labour is always the very extreme of what the market price of the produce will justify, often indeed far beyond it. The present general rate of wages for field labour is 8*d.* for what is called "a task," which is accomplished in about four hours of the forenoon; this is equal to about 1*s.* 8*d.* per day as compared with the time occupied in a day's labour in England, and if compared with the quantity of work which an English labourer would perform during working hours is fully equivalent to 2*s.* 6*d.* per day at home. But even this high rate is insufficient to secure continuous labour, nor will the labourers as a general rule perform during each day more than one task, although they could without difficulty accomplish two or even three, and thus earn a corresponding increase of wages. The unsettled state of the labour market at present must no doubt in some measure be attributed to the absence of that reciprocity of feeling amongst the planters themselves to which I adverted at some length in my report of last year. Attempts are not unfrequently made to seduce away the labourers from one estate to another by increased wages, or other inducements in the shape of perquisites, a very trifling increase being found sufficient to draw labour from estates several miles distant, although the additional time occupied in going to and returning from work, if applied to the performance of another task, would greatly exceed the nominal increase. However much such a state of things is to be deplored, it is scarcely to be wondered at that individuals should seek by every means in their power to avert impending ruin, even at the risk of increasing for the future the general inconvenience; for it is with them frequently only the choice of the least of two evils, viz. reaping the crop at a loss, or losing it altogether. Even this relief, such as it is, is only temporary, the parties from whom the labour has been thus withdrawn finding it necessary to increase in their turn, and thus a general advance of wages becomes established. In this manner during the last two or three years the wages have been gradually rising, and the quantity of labour allotted for a task diminishing, making together an increase equivalent to nearly 50 per cent. The unsettled state of the labour market is the natural result; the labourers take their labour from one estate to another, the planter puts in his crop not knowing whether he can reap it, and he is in fact unable to make his arrangements from week to week with any degree of certainty; while every permanent advance in the rate of wages, by lessening the motive to exertion, necessarily reduces the available supply of labour in the market, and the difficulty is perpetuated in an aggravated form.

19. This I believe to be a true statement of the relative positions of the employer and employed at the present moment; the difficulty has of late been rapidly on the increase, and there can be now little difference of opinion, but that upon its satisfactory solution mainly depends the future well-being and improvement of this island. The want of a sufficiency of continuous labour not only constitutes the chief obstacle to the further development of the agricultural resources of St. Kitts, for a considerable extension of which with increasing advantage all the other necessary elements are at hand, but even the breadth of land at present under cultivation can scarcely be maintained for any length of time in the face of this difficulty, and should the evil continue, as of late, increasing, the more wealthy proprietors will I greatly fear gradually withdraw from so unequal a contest, and seek elsewhere some less uncertain investment for their capital; for the available supply of labour being unequal to the demand one of two things must take place, either the demand must be diminished or the supply increased, and there seems at present little probability of the former being effected in any other way than by the partial abandonment of sugar cultivation, which from the course of events in other islands appears to involve a relapse into semi-barbarism, every legitimate means should therefore be used to secure the latter an increased supply of continuous labour.

ST. KITTS.

20. The legislature are alive to the importance of the question, and have of late passed several remedial measures. Not the least important amongst these must be considered an act for affording to the children of the labouring population under nine years of age gratuitous medical relief; the mortality amongst this class having been ascertained to be disproportionately great, owing to the habitual neglect by negro parents of their infant offspring, and their unwillingness to incur the expense of employing with sufficient promptitude the services of properly qualified medical practitioners: under the provisions of this Act medical attendance and medicine have been supplied gratis to 2,704 children during the past year, at an expense to the public of only 500*l.* sterling. A measure, to which I have before alluded, has also been carried, having for its object the encouragement of the immigration of agricultural labourers, by means of a small tax upon produce exported; a sum of 1,653*l.* 17*s.* 1*d.* was collected in this manner during the last nine months of 1855, and the first importation, consisting of 108 immigrants from Madeira, arrived here a few days since. Immigration, however, must always be considered of secondary importance compared to any attempt to stimulate the actual resident population to greater industry, and with this view the pressure of direct taxation in the shape of a small tax upon provision grounds has also been applied within the last few months. The distribution of the fund so raised in aid of institutions for the exclusive benefit of the industrial classes is the first practical application here of a principle, the extension of which would, I conceive, be attended with very great advantage.

Act, No. 713, passed 5th Dec. 1853.

Act, No. 717, passed 2d April 1855.

Act, No. 727, passed 17th Dec. 1855.

21. But while I thus recognise the advantage of direct taxation, and such like remedies applied as artificial stimulants to exertion, and acknowledge that they may assist to mitigate the evil and afford temporary relief, I on the other hand wish to guard myself against being supposed to overrate their value, believing as I do that if tried alone they must and will prove wholly ineffectual in producing any permanent or solid improvement while the root of the disease remains untouched. Those who take a high and comprehensive view of the whole question in all its bearings upon the population of a West Indian island, who are, as I have shown, under little natural obligation to labour for the necessaries of life, cannot but see that all real improvement worthy of the name must consist in the civilization and elevation in the social scale of the people themselves, and in the implantation and growth of right principles in their hearts. It is only in a thorough change of their hearts and habits, in the stricter observance of every religious, moral, social, and domestic duty, in a more just estimation of their position as responsible beings, endowed with certain faculties capable of realizing certain objects, and bound to fulfil certain duties,—it is only I repeat in connexion with these, which may be said to constitute the genius of Christianity, that their highest elevation, and consequently any permanent relief from the difficulties of the present position, is to be sought and found. I am aware that a change of such magnitude must be of slow growth, and that a large proportion of the present adult population may be considered from their age and antecedents incapable of achieving any large measure of improvement; but with the rising generation the same objection will not hold good, and I entertain a strong conviction that when the principles upon which these suggestions rest are more generally acknowledged to be sound, and when they are kept constantly in view as the only sure and certain remedy, and steadily acted upon, the ultimate attainment of the desired end will in some measure be daily and hourly advanced.

Education.

22. I am thus led to the consideration of a subject the importance of which can scarcely be overrated, as upon the right understanding and application of this powerful element of civilization depends its influence for good or evil, either upon individuals or upon society at large.

23. The state of the day schools and of education generally in St. Kitts during the year 1855 differs in no essential particular from that of several previous years as described by my report of 1854. There has been a slight increase in the number of children returned as having been in attendance in the day schools during 1855, being 2,100 as compared with 1,947 in the previous year; but these figures represent, I imagine, the numbers of names on the

ST. KITTS.

school lists, and must be read with considerable abatement to arrive at the number of regular daily attendants.

24. The subject of the education of the working classes has engrossed a large share of public attention in this island during the last twelve months. It has given rise to much animated discussion in the legislative houses, and has been freely commented upon and examined in a temperate and useful spirit by the public journals. For many years the day schools in connexion with the different religious denominations of the Established Church, the Wesleyan Mission, and the Church of the United Brethren (commonly known as the Moravians), have been supported altogether by school fees and voluntary contributions, without any assistance from the treasury of the island; the differences of opinion prevailing upon the subject of a public system of education having, until lately, impeded all attempts at legislation, one party being in favour of a course of teaching altogether secular, another being in favour of a national system of education, involving such a small amount of general religious instruction as might be acceptable to all without offending the prejudices of any denomination, while a strong party was opposed to education in any shape. This last was the feeling of a large and influential portion of the proprietary body, and I have almost universally heard from them the same argument, viz., that the worst labourers in their employment,—the most deceitful, unruly, disrespectful, and impatient of direction and control,—were invariably those who had been to school. An opinion so universal could not but be to some extent well founded, and my own experience leads me to believe that these objections are not wholly without foundation, and that the system hitherto pursued in the schools, though well intended, has not been altogether of the most judicious description or that best suited to the requirements of an agricultural population. The teachers as a body have not possessed the proper qualifications for their important and difficult office. With a very limited amount of knowledge, and a very large amount of vanity, they have succeeded in communicating these failings to their pupils in an increased ratio; hence the dislike of many of the youth to honest industry, false and extravagant ideas of their position and claims, an absence of right feeling of relative station and subordinacy, which they imagine inconsistent with self respect and independence. These defects in themselves are sufficient to account for the prejudices of the planters, who perhaps confound the misapplication of the means employed with the soundness of the principle itself. The differences of opinion upon this subject have, however, at last in some measure been reconciled, and an enactment became law at the close of 1855 from which I anticipate the happiest results. It is now very generally admitted that intellectual culture is not the only or the chief requisite in public instruction, but that preponderance must be given to the cultivation of the moral faculties. It has been decided that this can be best effected here by assisting the different religious denominations in their educational efforts with grants of public money in proportion to the number of regular attendants in each school, thereby conducing to increased efficiency by supplying the means of securing properly qualified teachers, placing at the same time all the schools receiving public aid under the control and supervision of a Board of Education, whose duty it will be to ascertain and ensure that the education imparted in each school shall be religious, plain, and useful, and to prohibit under a forfeiture of the state allowance any practices or course of studies which experience has proved to be objectionable and unsuited to the children of the industrial classes.

Education Act, passed Dec. 1855.

25. It is highly gratifying to be able to record the anxiety evinced by the ministers of every denomination to co-operate in this good work; and I feel much pleasure in reporting that upon the Act coming into operation on the 1st of January last, every school in the island in connexion with these religious bodies was placed under the control of the Board of Education. With such union, and a hearty desire amongst all to correct whatever may be faulty in the present system, I feel warranted in entertaining sanguine expectation of success in this interesting and important cause.

Gaol and Prisoners.

Con^{ns}. 122 Pop. 20,741

26. The returns under this head continue to be very satisfactory. Crime appears to be steadily on the decrease, the number of convicted prisoners

confined in gaol during the past year being only 122, or in the ratio of 1 to 170 as compared with the population. The following is a statement of the numbers for the three previous years:

1852	348
1853	168
1854	173
1855	122

I append to this despatch a continuation of the return transmitted with my report of last year, showing the number of convictions for each of the last four years, with the nature of the offence committed in each case, by which it will also be seen that during the period at present under review there has been a total absence of delinquencies of an aggravated nature. I cannot better describe the favourable condition of the island in this particular than by quoting part of the address delivered by the chief justice to the grand jury at the opening of the courts for the present year:—

Paper B. in Appendix. Page 200.

"It cannot but be matter for congratulation that though this court has been "kept regularly adjourned, in order to afford the opportunity of delivering the "gaol, should the necessity arise, it has not been found necessary to call you "together since the adjourned meeting in August last. There are now only "three prisoners in confinement awaiting trial, and two of those are deprived "of liberty only because they could not procure reasonable bail, and not on "account of the gravity of the offences with which they are charged.

"Before inviting your attention to the particular business of the day, I "would, as has been my habit on this anniversary, refer to the state of crime, "as disclosed by the gaol register during the preceding twelve months. "Although I do not accept criminal calendars as infallible proof of progress or "retrogression of a community in religion and morality, I think it would be "injustice to the character of the general population to withhold from publicity "such pregnant evidence of the extent to which it is distinguished for good "order and respect for the laws, as I cannot but hold is afforded by a decrease "in the number suffering for their offences, whether vices or crimes; the whole "number coming under this category during last year was 122. You will "probably remember that in 1854 it was 173, in 1853 it was 168, in 1852 "348, and in 1851, to which year it was first my privilege to draw your "attention, upwards of 400. The period now immediately under review is "not only distinguished for the numerical decrease of offences, but for the "total absence of delinquencies of the higher orders. It may not be unworthy "of observation, that of the 122 convicts no less than thirty-three are old "offenders, subject to punishment in some cases for the fifth and sixth time; "this last circumstance may indeed show our prison discipline to be entirely "'punitory' and not 'reformatory,' but the whole statement must at the "same time be held to establish that the natural dispositions of our people "have, comparatively, little affinity with crime, or that the administration of "criminal justice has been eminently deterrent. I doubt not but under the "stimulant of public patronage and assistance public education will in future "more readily evince its legitimate influence."

Agriculture.

27. Most of the modern improvements which have stood the test of experience elsewhere, both in the cultivation of the cane and in the manufacture of the produce, have been adopted here, as far as local circumstances would permit. The plough and other implements of husbandry have been very generally used for many years, and the average produce per acre must have increased considerably, since a larger quantity of sugar is produced now than in the time of slavery, upon an area of land scarcely equal in extent to two thirds of the amount then under cultivation. If, therefore, a sufficient supply of labour were available to extend the cultivation again to that amount, the planters could secure a much larger return at a proportionably less cost than at present, as such an extension would not require any considerable addition to their fixed investments. The decrease in the area of cultivation has not been effected here by the total abandonment of any number of estates, as in other islands, but by the relinquishment of such portions of each estate as required

ST KITTS.

the greatest quantity of labour. There are 137 estates in the island, 128 of which are in sugar cultivation, and nine only in pasture and ground provisions. Steam power has been brought to bear in manufacturing the produce of fifty of the above estates, there being no less than forty-one steam engines at present in the island.

28. But there can be little doubt that the favorable appearance which St. Kitts presents as compared with many islands of larger extent and greater natural capabilities must be mainly attributed to the unusual proportion in which this island has hitherto been favoured by the residence of the owners and lessees of the soil. Of the 137 estates in the island, fifty-eight belong to resident proprietors, twenty-two are worked by resident lessees, who supplying the necessary capital for their cultivation have at least an equal interest in their success with the proprietors themselves, while only fifty-seven belong to absentee proprietors, most of whom are, however, wealthy mercantile firms at home, who are represented here by some of the most respectable and influential gentlemen of the community.

Conclusion.

29. Upon a calm and dispassionate review, then, of the past and present condition of this island, it must I think be admitted that there is great reason for congratulation and thankfulness. Difficulties and dangers of no ordinary description, and from which inevitable ruin has been constantly and unhesitatingly predicted, have here been boldly combated and successfully overcome. The colony is now entirely free from debt. The revenue exceeds the expenditure. The public institutions are maintained in a creditable state of efficiency, and social improvements are fostered and advanced. The exports exhibit a steady increase. The island has the advantage of an unusually large proportion of resident proprietors, and presents an appearance of high cultivation. Capital is not wanting for the still further development of its resources. The means of obtaining a sound education have been placed within the reach of the whole population, and crime is steadily diminishing. These are the gratifying features in the present condition of this colony as shown in the authentic records now forwarded. For the future, though the prospect is not altogether unclouded, yet I can entertain no doubt as to the ultimate issue of events, if, as there is every reason to hope, trials and difficulties are met in the same energetic and manly spirit which has hitherto achieved such satisfactory results. If, neither looking for artificial help from others, nor seeking in a repining and desponding spirit to recover what is gone for ever, altered circumstances are frankly accepted, and unavoidable evils boldly and manfully encountered, continued prosperity and success may be fairly and confidently anticipated under the care and blessing of an all-wise and watchful Providence.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HERCULES G. R. ROBINSON,
Lieut.-Governor.

A.

RETURN showing the REVENUE and EXPENDITURE, IMPORTS and EXPORTS, from 1802 to present Time.

YEAR.	Revenue collected.	Expenditure.	Value of Imports.	Value of Exports.	Quantity of Produce exported.				
					Sugar in Hogsheads.	Rum in Puncheons.	Molasses in Puncheons.	Salt in Barrels.	Potatoes in Barrels.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.					
1802	- - -	- - -	- - -	- - -	15,458	—	—	—	—
1803	- - -	- - -	- - -	- - -	10,801	—	—	—	—
1804	- - -	- - -	- - -	- - -	9,852	—	—	—	—
1805	- - -	- - -	- - -	- - -	12,526	—	—	—	—
1806	- - -	- - -	- - -	- - -	12,843	—	—	—	—
1807	- - -	- - -	- - -	- - -	13,390	—	—	—	—
1808	- - -	- - -	- - -	- - -	10,005	—	—	—	—
1809	- - -	- - -	- - -	- - -	8,800	—	—	—	—
1810	- - -	- - -	- - -	- - -	9,414	—	—	—	—
1811	- - -	- - -	- - -	- - -	7,884	—	—	—	—
1812	- - -	- - -	- - -	- - -	7,916	—	—	—	—
1813	- - -	- - -	- - -	- - -	6,256	—	—	—	—
1814	- - -	- - -	- - -	- - -	9,913	—	—	—	—
1815	- - -	- - -	- - -	- - -	7,470	—	—	—	—
1816	- - -	- - -	- - -	- - -	6,783	—	—	—	—
1817	- - -	- - -	- - -	- - -	5,869	—	—	—	—
1818	- - -	- - -	- - -	- - -	6,296	—	—	—	—
1819	- - -	- - -	- - -	- - -	6,496	—	—	—	—
1820	- - -	- - -	- - -	- - -	6,471	—	—	—	—
1821	- - -	- - -	- - -	- - -	7,880	—	—	—	—
1822	- - -	- - -	- - -	- - -	7,509	—	—	—	—
1823	- - -	- - -	- - -	- - -	5,185	—	—	—	—
1824	- - -	- - -	- - -	- - -	9,683	—	—	—	—
1825	- - -	- - -	- - -	- - -	5,344	—	—	—	—
1826	- - -	- - -	- - -	- - -	8,721	—	—	—	—
1827	- - -	- - -	- - -	- - -	8,314	1,653	3,265	—	—
1828	- - -	- - -	- - -	- - -	7,157	2,377	1,233	—	—
1829	A 8,746 13 1	A 6,897 7 10	- - -	- - -	8,577	2,280	1,707	—	—
1830	A 6,937 2 1	A 4,933 0 7	41,537 8 11	198,728 18 0	8,951	2,990	1,250	—	—
1831	A 2,648 2 7	A 5,401 12 5	- - -	- - -	7,704	3,338	2,536	—	—
1832	B 15,269 19 4	A 4,613 1 2	52,729 16 3	121,682 10 0	6,494	1,170	3,448	5,000	—
1833	A 2,879 13 6	- - -	- - -	- - -	5,614	858	3,834	—	—
1834	A 3,638 4 9	A 6,220 2 2	63,018 2 1	156,013 3 0	7,727	1,255	4,436	7,022	—
1835	A 6,266 0 5	A 5,146 2 5	76,805 19 10	133,560 1 0	7,248	1,328	3,244	1,939	—
1836	A 4,198 2 2	A 4,821 19 5	155,034 0 0	153,621 14 0	5,399	492	2,678	2,052	—
1837	A 6,447 5 0	A 5,348 2 10	- - -	124,394 0 0	5,080	1,058	2,356	—	—
1838	A 6,356 9 11	A 6,175 16 9	153,653 10 11	183,517 0 0	7,487	1,153	3,016	15,906	—
1839	A 9,208 2 2	A 8,404 18 7	71,202 12 11	186,148 0 0	6,606	1,794	2,513	8,355	—
1840	A 8,188 7 2	A 5,961 9 2	c 71,230 2 11	278,544 0 0	6,153	1,475	2,387	1,816	—
1841	A 4,665 10 2	A 6,195 8 7	c 48,024 9 9	106,458 13 0	3,320	394	1,283	3,255	—
1842	A 6,041 10 3	A 6,933 11 2	c 63,655 4 1	149,254 7 8	5,884	956	2,718	25,308	—
1843	A 9,885 19 9	A 8,326 18 5	c 107,689 14 2	105,583 9 2	4,792	412	2,466	14,241	—
1844	12,600 16 0	12,033 9 11	168,370 5 8	180,238 6 5	7,736	913	3,496	892	407
1845	13,499 14 6	15,048 10 8	180,001 15 0	188,612 11 3	7,542	1,175	3,329	—	—
1846	13,060 8 8	13,365 15 8	169,996 2 10	137,502 10 8	5,837	660	2,880	—	6,361
1847	11,905 11 2	12,994 0 0	176,580 10 10	171,955 9 8	7,346	1,710	2,612	—	1,097
1848	8,522 5 2	12,320 0 6	93,328 18 2	87,753 11 4	5,637	1,077	1,431	4,327	7,848
1849	9,697 1 8	9,680 1 3	110,452 10 7	100,359 16 5	5,467	814	2,908	4,418	8,124
1850	11,810 19 11	10,315 17 6	92,418 12 8	81,954 7 1	4,735	411	1,990	41,927	5,068
1851	17,902 11 11	14,672 7 6	112,748 3 2	126,610 0 7	7,312	708	3,752	7,166	8,094
1852	13,265 14 8	13,090 10 11	76,680 2 3	91,741 19 3	5,140	723	1,902	—	3,578
1853	14,206 16 1	12,632 11 0	91,935 11 8	131,812 9 2	7,053	870	2,793	—	11,836
1854	14,644 8 6	19,994 11 5	107,965 0 7	133,089 9 2	8,005	1,922	3,178	24,653	1,139
1855	15,172 5 7	12,782 5 2	96,097 11 4	144,641 12 3	7,245	1,894	1,747	19,370	2,250

References.

A.—In the revenue collected and in the expenditure for these years is not included the local taxation levied and expended under municipal boards.

B.—The large sum of £11,000 handed over in this year from the collector of customs to the treasurer.

C.—No value returned of imports from Great Britain for these years.

ST. KITTS.

B.

RETURN of the NUMBER of CONVICTS sentenced to Imprisonment, or Imprisonment with Hard Labour, for the Years 1852, 1853, 1854, and 1855.

CRIMES.

	1852.	1853.	1854.	1855.
1st. Against the Person:				
Murder	—	—	1	—
Culpable homicide	—	1	1	—
Assault with intent to murder	—	—	—	—
Rape or assault with intent	—	—	—	—
Unnatural offences or attempts	—	—	—	—
Assault with intent to do grievous bodily harm	10	6	9	1
Assaults	39	38	32	30
	49	45	43	31
2d. Against Property with Violence:				
House, &c., breaking with intent to steal and theft	5	—	—	—
Robbery	—	3	—	—
	5	3	—	—
3d. Against Property without Violence:				
Cattle, horse, and sheep stealing, theft or receipt of stolen goods, &c.	173	53	63	32
Frauds, embezzlement, vagrant act	2	1	3	1
	175	54	66	33
4th. Malicious Offences against Property:				
Arson	1	—	—	—
Other malicious injuries of property	16	3	7	2
Forgery	—	—	—	2
	17	3	7	4
5th. Other Offences:				
Abusive language	12	7	13	8
Aiding prisoners to escape	—	—	—	—
Conspiracy	—	—	—	—
Contempt of court	—	—	1	—
Cruelty to animals	—	1	3	1
Disorderly conduct	66	33	24	29
Exposing person	3	5	—	—
Game laws	—	—	2	1
Merchant Seaman's Act	5	12	—	2
Perjury	4	1	—	—
Pound breach	—	1	2	—
Resisting police	1	—	3	—
Revenue laws	1	1	—	3
Sanitary	—	1	6	—
Unauthorized detention of property	1	—	—	1
Contract act	9	1	3	5
Forcible possession	—	—	—	1
Uttering counterfeit coin	—	—	—	1
Petty trespass act	—	—	—	2
	102	63	57	54
TOTAL	348	168	173	122

NEVIS.

No. 23.

Copy of a DESPATCH from Governor Hamilton to the Right Hon. H. Labouchere, M.P.

(No. 18.)

Leeward Islands, Antigua,
May 10, 1856.

Sir,

(Received June 5, 1856.)

I have the honour to forward the "Blue Book" of Nevis for the year 1855, together with a very interesting report from Mr. President Seymour, which contains remarks upon the present features of society in that island, and expresses the expectations which he considers may reasonably be formed of future improvement under the new fiscal arrangements of Government.

I have, &c.

The Right Hon. Henry Labouchere, &c. &c. &c.

(Signed) KER B. HAMILTON.

Enclosure in No. 23.

Copy of a Despatch from Mr. President Seymour to the Governor-in-Chief.

(No. 13.)

Sir,

Nevis, April 10, 1856.

I have the honour to forward the Blue Book of this island for the year 1855.

General Remarks.

Separated as the West Indian islands are, not only by intervening straits, but by the possession of distinct local administrators, independent legislatures, varying tariffs, differing currencies, and occasionally by the rigid infliction of quarantine, every one of these small communities has worked out for itself the problems with which the cessation of slavery left them all to deal, so that, however little these colonies would on the surface appear to differ, yet each has its own individual peculiarities which it requires time to find out. At the conclusion of the second year of my administration of this Government, I propose to enter somewhat minutely into an examination of the affairs of Nevis, for I wish any measures over whose introduction I have presided to be tested chiefly by their applicability to local circumstances.

This colony, for its size, formerly one of the most flourishing in the West Indies, appears to have commenced a downwardly progressive course previous to the emancipation of the slaves. When that measure was determined on by the Imperial Parliament, the legislature and proprietors of Nevis, instead of cheerfully accepting what was inevitable, and adapting their arrangements to the change, seem to have regarded the liberation of their slaves as an arbitrary interference on the part of the Home Government, which, though they could not prevent, they would continue to protest against and resist. As if forgetful that their own interests were at stake, with an obstinacy of which we now feel the effects, they strove to impede and embarrass the new order of things; and as, after the cessation of apprenticeship, the management of affairs was left much in the hands of the local authorities, they, clinging to any remnants which still existed of a bygone institution, have succeeded in retaining but too many reminiscences of slavery time.

I see that in 1835 Sir Evan Macgregor warned the Legislative Houses of future consequences. He had received "without surprise" the notification of the unsatisfactory working of the apprenticeship system, and he anticipates, "not only that this intermediate stage will become progressively more "comfortless, but that it will serve to introduce at its termination a state of "freedom beset with difficulties, owing to the suspicious feelings towards each "other that must be expected to prevail between labourers and their employers,

NEVIS.

" when the former are actuated by no cause of gratitude, and the latter are " conscious of deserving none." These provisions have been fully realized, and it is with this " state of freedom beset with difficulties" that we have now to deal.

The planters, who always form a majority in the Council and Assembly, have preserved, as I said, under a system where there is no compulsory labour, all the peculiarities they could retain of one based entirely upon compulsion. Slow to acknowledge any rights as belonging to the emancipated labourer, they, to this day, continue the cultivation of their estates without any law of contract to define the relations and regulate the duties incumbent respectively upon master and servant.

No summary mode is provided for the recovery of wages; and the only remedy open to the negro, if aggrieved by the detention of a day's pay, is an action in the Court of Complaints, at an immediate cost to him of between sixteen and twenty shillings; a proceeding which has never yet been resorted to. As the magistrate cannot interfere to do justice to the labourer if ill used, neither can he assist the master if his workmen walk away from the mill or the boiling-house when most wanted.

Employer and employed settle these matters between themselves. The master punishes the refractory labourer by withholding wages actually earned; the labourer retaliates by moving off the property, and offering his services elsewhere. This system is derogatory to the self-respect of both classes, and has prevented the growth of the proper feeling which ought mutually to regulate their transactions.

The Nevis labourer feels that his position is a false one, and he strives to exempt himself from the necessity of submitting to the caprice of a master. His first object in life is to obtain that which the planter is most interested in withholding from him; a means of living apart from the profits of his labour in the cane fields. Yet in nearly every instance the planter has favoured the acquisition of this independence. His whole political economy seems to be comprised in the necessity of keeping the labourer poor in money. Looking backward for a standard of what is right, he has continued and greatly extended all the perquisites and allowances once enjoyed by the slave,—the payments in kind, which, perhaps, when coupled with severe coercion, did not interfere with labour, but which now foster idleness.

The house in which the negro lives generally belongs to the estate, and he can be turned out of it at the pleasure of the proprietor. Such an expulsion, though probably a momentary inconvenience, is no loss. The cattle and sheep which the labourer has been permitted to keep on his employer's land render him careless of leaving a hovel to which no comforts or decencies have given the attributes of a home. Besides, he knows that he will be well received,—if not permanently well treated,—on any other property to which he may repair. Possibly this emigration is often times repeated; but the encroachments of the bush on the cane lands, the increase of cattle, and the erection of kennels, scarcely fit for human habitation, on the skirt of the forest which covers the central mountain, show that there is a tendency on the part of the negroes to escape from the cultivation of the sugar cane towards the wilder districts, where, unconscious of any duties to be performed for the rest of the community, they lead a vagabond life, and allow their children to grow up without clothing and without education. Living thus, these proprietors of stock without land escape altogether from fiscal burdens, under a system of indirect taxation, while forming the very class against whose depredations better conducted people have to pay for protection.

Another cause of the unsatisfactory position of the lower classes is the practice—recently forbidden by law, but not quite abandoned—of paying the labourers in rum. To complete a system strenuously upheld by the principal proprietors, an artificial value has been locally given to a Spanish coin of base silver. It is imagined that by paying in rum and bad money the labourer will be kept industrious and poor. He is made dissolute and idle. The frequent use of ardent spirits will scarcely lead to steady exertion. The want of money keeps the negro without civilizing comforts, his taste for which ought to be stimulated in every way. By lowering his position he will not be made industrious. Our great difficulty is that he seems but too well

satisfied with the mere animal existence which he can always support by the mangoes of some abandoned plantation, stolen sugar canes, or the almost spontaneous production of the potato-ground.

I have hitherto been unable to introduce any improvement in the relation of master and servant by legislation bearing directly on the subject, with the exception of the act forbidding the payment of wages in rum; but a new fiscal system, which has just been introduced, will, I think, be found to effect a pressure upon the most prominent of our social evils.

On the other hand, this "state of freedom beset with difficulties" has reduced most of the proprietors to poverty, and driven the greater part of them into emigration. Where formerly a numerous and efficient white militia was kept up, the present adult male population of European extraction does not amount to 60 individuals. To those who still make the colony their home the state of existence is not very satisfactory. A feeling of insecurity pervades their small number, surrounded by a population of trespassers, whose trespasses are tolerated as much from fear as from interest. So that, upon the whole, though nature has done as much for Nevis as for most places, the general aspect of things is sufficiently gloomy.

Far be it from me to throw the whole blame upon the planters. It is impossible to withhold one's sympathy from them. Hard working and economical, they pursue their avocations among saucy and independent negroes, whose whims they must humour, and whose impertinence they must endure; but as the power of legislating is in their hands, I take it they must be held responsible for some of the evils under which they labour. If they could set their minds to a consideration of the present West Indian question, undisturbed by recollections of the past, they might even now place matters on a more satisfactory footing.

When, in Nevis, an unnatural system, under which men were divided into slaves and the owners of slaves, was broken in pieces, it was in a colony shut up and isolated by heavy import duties that the disconnected fragments were left to form by their own action into fresh combinations. Unfortunately these fragments have not grown into a society on the model to be found in happier places. The different classes keeping at first aloof, a sort of mental stagnation was occasioned, which after a time began to generate unsound and with the emancipated somewhat dangerous ideas. Crimes of violence to the person became of frequent commission, and a strange form of worship sprung up amongst the negroes, which attracts even now occasionally from 600 to 700 persons in a congregation. The sect professes a belief in Christianity, and its members are considered steady workers, keep their houses comparatively neat and clean, and escaped with singular immunity when the cholera was prevalent in the island. Their rites offend more by folly and the deplorable admixture of African superstition than by actual immorality; but the general tone of feeling of the sect is bad; and I regret to hear that a special service is held to rejoice over the departure of any white family, and the preacher then points out how few of that colour remain.

Turning from the rural districts to the town, its well-built houses, on the shores of one of the best roadsteads in the West Indies, have been gradually falling into decay. The few shop windows present little to catch the eye, and the price of such articles as are exhibited is exorbitantly high, for the shopkeeper must protect himself by high charges against loss in accepting at its artificial value the coin of impure silver to which the people have secured for the last 40 years a favoured currency.

I see nothing in the common dry goods and hardware presented for sale to tempt the indolent and self-satisfied negro to work for its possession, or to give him any correct idea of the real value of his labour.

Revenue and Expenditure.

A creditable effort, as far as intentions go, was made by the Legislative Houses early in the session to raise a sufficient revenue to pay off the cholera debt, and meet the current expenses. I say, as far as intentions go, for the increase of duties has led to a diminution of receipts.

In my opening address I had advocated the entire supersession of indirect by direct taxation, and a Bill in accordance with my recommendation was brought into the House of Assembly by the Solicitor General. It found so

NEVIS

little favour there that the second reading was only obtained by the pledge that no effort would be made to press the Bill for the next six months. It was resumed, and passed on the 3d of October; but as the Act did not come financially into operation until the 1st March in this current year, I will place the remarks I desire to make upon it under the head of "Legislation."

Having put aside the Direct Taxation Bill, the Assembly proceeded to provide a sufficient revenue according to the old fiscal system. The first step was the placing an additional duty on imports. The price of all articles had previously been sufficiently high to operate as a check on consumption, and the result of this financial measure has been the diminution by upwards of a third in the customs receipts. Under the raised tariff the import duties realized in 1855 but 1,223*l.* 9*s.* 11*d.*, against 1,918*l.* 2*s.* 9*d.* in 1854; thus exhibiting a decrease of 694*l.* 12*s.* 10*d.*, although the sugar crop of 1855 had exceeded that of the preceding year by more than two hundred tons.

The export duty on sugar, rum, and molasses was also increased, and there is a small augmentation in the revenue of 1855 under this head, but towards the close of the year it began to show a rapid falling off, as even the bulky sugar hogsheads were brought by the heavy duty within the scope of the smuggler's operations, and sent off in open boats, to be placed on board vessels loading in the roadstead of St. Kitts.

There is a small increase in the receipts on account of public fines, from my having put a stop to the practice of the magistrates receiving the money raised under their adjudications, and made the police officers responsible to me for the regular payment of this branch of the revenue into the Treasury. A trifling sum has been levied under the Rum Licence Act, which came into operation in November.

The other taxes have been less productive than usual; and the arrangements made by the Assembly to augment the revenue by imposing additional duties in all directions have ended in the signal failure, of a total diminution of £560 10*s.* in the revenue of the year.

The income tax was increased along with the indirect taxes, and the Treasurer has reported a remarkable decrease in its proceeds, adding as an explanation. "Poverty and inability to pay." I cannot admit the correctness of this explanation, for the cause is simply that the unpaid income tax commissioners, neglecting their duty, did not levy the second moiety of the tax until January 1856, although it was payable in December 1855. The income tax for 1855 is fixed at the rate of income received by the individual in the preceding year. Therefore the Treasurer's remark, if worth anything, must be held to apply to 1854. I have procured an estimate of the incomes for the year 1855 which will be paid in 1856. I find an increase reported of upwards of double the highest estimate made for many years. But I place no reliance on the correctness of the earlier estimates, and therefore draw no inference therefrom as to the advancement in well-being of the community. I only arrive at the conclusion that paid commissioners, as we now have, do their duty much better than the unpaid.

It is but just to the Legislative Houses to say, that they evinced a sincere desire to free the colony from debt, and having relinquished for a time the practice of making irregular grants of money by resolution, without the application of the Executive, a total reduction of 1,087*l.* 13*s.* 8*d.* in the expenditure took place, and by this economy the public were left financially in a more favourable position on the 31st Dec. 1855 than on the last day of 1854.

It was evident that the measures of the Assembly crippled trade, and increased discomfort, while missing altogether the beneficial results expected of them; but they had at least the advantage of bringing minds round to a consideration of the whole question of taxation. It began to be perceived that the colony must bear its own burdens, and that the more immediately and directly it did so, without wasting money on a complicated mode of collection, the better it would be for us.

It had been tried to raise a tax on ships and merchandise, and officers were appointed to collect the dues; but this failed, for the ships preferred the larger markets in our neighbourhood, when the small one offered no especial inducement. The tax on clothing and what are called "dry goods" was increased; but this also failed, for such articles do not appear to be indispensable to a semi-civilised population. The black children are turned out naked, and the parents pursued

or neglected their usual avocations in rags. Even the sugar hogsheads, it was found, escaped, if too heavily taxed; and so the Council and Assembly again took up the Direct Taxation Bill, and passed it.

Public Debt.

In spite of financial difficulties, the annual instalment of the principal of the debt to Her Majesty's Treasury under the earthquake loan, and the accruing interest, have been paid with punctuality.

Roads and Public Works.

The roads have been much improved in 1855, and, considering the peculiar shape of the surface of this mountainous island, I must pronounce them to be at the present time in a highly satisfactory and creditable condition.

At the commencement of the year, the system of repairing the roads under unpaid commissioners was abandoned, and a salary provided for a director of works. The high roads are repaired by statute labour, and the taxes on horses, carriages, and carts form a road fund, which is kept distinct from the other public accounts.

Legislation.

1. "An Act to amend the Road Act," remedying some technical defects.

2. New "Quarantine regulations," framed by the Board of Health, and possessing, when sanctioned by the three branches of the Legislature, the force of law. The former regulations were objectionable in themselves, and rendered doubly so by the manner in which they were carried out by the Board of Health, a very numerous and scattered body of men. By the present rules, the Board is deprived of the power of interfering in questions of quarantine, and confined within the proper limits of its functions, in looking after the internal sanitary arrangements of the island, a duty for which the number and dispersion of its members renders the Board well qualified. The delicate matters relating to quarantine, and precautionary measures against supposed danger from without, are attended with a continual struggle against popular prejudice, and require, in a place like this, to be managed with great tact and discretion, in order to make the deductions of medical science satisfactorily prevail over the conclusions drawn from their own experience by an ignorant population. The performance of these duties has now been transferred to a Board of three public officers, under the immediate direction of the Executive. The former regulations of Nevis were probably on a level with the worst of those existing in the West Indies. The present are, it is believed, as little vexatious to individuals and injurious to trade as any now to be found.

3 and 5. Taxing Acts, since repealed.

4. "An Act to amend the Sanitary Act," in accordance with the wishes of the Secretary of State.

6. "An Act to settle the time when a previous conviction shall be given in "evidence on the trial of a party for a felony committed after a conviction of a "previous felony," adapted from the Imperial Statute of the 6th & 7th Wm. IV. cap. 11.

7. "An Act to impose certain taxes on the yearly value of all sugar "plantations and all other real property, and certain other taxes, in lieu of the "present fiscal system."

Under this Act all indirect taxation is abolished, and in its place another system is imposed (singularly inexpensive in its machinery), which it is hoped will increase prosperity by the encouragement of honest industry, and turn to the advantage of the colony all the peculiar facilities for trade possessed by the island, which warred against the collection of customs duties. Local experience seems to show that money, without an immediate inducement to spend it, has little charms, when set against the placid enjoyment of negro idleness. We wish to furnish that inducement, and give a greater value to the wages which the labourer may command, by bringing within his reach the conveniences and commoner kind of luxuries, the production of European civilization, and try what influence the temptations exhibited in pretty shop windows may have upon him. While the customs duties were in existence, the supply of imported goods was limited more by the simple and unartificial nature of the wants than by the poverty of the people. Under a system of perfect free trade, it is

NEVIS.

probable that goods in search of a market will be landed here, to save the demurrage of the vessel.

As regards the details of the measure, I would first observe that the proprietors of sugar estates have been accustomed to bear the principal charges under the now extinct fiscal system, and in the new one the chief reliance is still placed on them, but with this difference;—formerly the tax fell on the produce, so that the intelligent and hard-working person, who developed the resources of his estate, paid more than his share, while the idle or unskilful planter escaped almost free; now the burden is thrown directly on the land, which the proprietor may be said to hold to a certain extent in trust for the community.

The tax commissioners are empowered to levy a tax not exceeding 20 per cent. on the yearly rentals of the sugar estates. It is desired to collect as much money as can be safely raised from other fixed sources, to be hereafter noticed, which press principally upon self-satisfied indolence, leaving the tax on the planter to fluctuate according to the greater or less productiveness of other branches of the revenue. One of the advantages which we anticipate from this mode of imposing the land tax is, that it will lead, in an Assembly composed of planters, to a cessation to extravagant grants of money.

The rental of the several estates has been assessed at a fixed value for the next five years, with a view to economy of collection, and to hold out a direct inducement to the improvement of the land; for the greater the produce the lighter will the tax fall. The assessments have been made on a basis of the probable productiveness of the estate under a simple average cheap cultivation. No higher charge is placed on the land on account of expensive works for the more scientific preparation of the staple; and, on the other hand, it has been found impossible to remit the tax in the cases, but too common here, where land is, to a great extent, abandoned by the proprietor to the use of squatters. The commissioners having considered that where the necessary works and appliances are on the land the owner must be made to pay as if he were rendering it moderately productive, it cannot be doubted that this tax will, in some instances, have the effect contemplated by the West India Incumbered Estates Act; a public benefit, worked out with some apparent hardship to individuals.

Upon the yearly value of all other real property, including the small freeholds of the negroes, a tax, also fluctuating, but in this case with a maximum of 12 per cent., is imposed, with power to the commissioners to forego the payment in case of absolute poverty on the part of an old or infirm proprietor. In the case of the smaller holdings, the tax is principally imposed for the purpose of exciting exertion, for the trifling value of the potato grounds will prevent its being very productive. The ratio of 12 to 20 per cent. will be preserved in levying these two imposts.

On houses not attached to sugar estates or to real property, taxed under the two preceding clauses, a rate, also fluctuating, not exceeding 5 per cent.

The taxes which follow are fixed, and cannot be altered by the commissioners. A tax of 10 per cent. on incomes of 25*l.* and upwards, not derived from sugar estates or other land in this island. This will fall upon the merchants and shopkeepers; public officers and overseers. The former classes will profit by an extension of their business, and the latter by the general cheapness which the new measures are calculated to create.

Upon trading boats, a yearly tax of 2*l.* Upon fishing boats, of 1*l.* A boat here makes a man independent. The power which it gives him of earning money far beyond his present wants render the boatmen generally about the laziest and least worthy portion of the population. So well are they off that they will only ply for double fares on the Saturday, the black man's holiday. This tax recommends itself fully as much from its being a check on an idle vagabond life, as by its productiveness.

Finally, an annual tax of 4*s.* a head on horned cattle (calves and yearlings excepted), not being attached to or generally worked upon a sugar plantation. The increase of cattle seems to be one of the great evils of the place, and until very recently a prohibitive duty was placed on their exportation. Every negro family has at least one cow, whether owning land or not; and the practice of trespassing has acquired so strong a hold that there is not a planter who would have the courage to impound the negroes' stock, unless actually found feeding

on the sugar canes. Cattle reared on another man's land, without any payment for the privilege, appears a legitimate subject of taxation, especially as the attention which they require is of a most desultory character, and leads to restless and vagrant habits. The cattle returns are still incomplete. It is however conjectured that the number is much about the same as that of the human population, namely, 10,000. Of these it is supposed that 1,500 belong to persons without land.

8. " An Act to compel persons retailing rum to take out a licence, and to " prohibit the paying of wages in ardent spirits." A very good law, if it could be carried out; but the police force is very limited, and the negroes are too much afraid of obeah, or witchcraft, to turn informers.

9. Amending the Government House Act.

10. " An Act to authorize the prosecution of all criminal offences by infor- " mation instead of indictment," and rendering the gentlemen who have hitherto served as grand jurors liable to serve as petty jurors on the trial of persons charged with such offences. The useless institution of a grand jury has now disappeared. Persons of the highest position in the island being compelled to serve on the petty juries, the confidence of the public in the administration of justice has been immensely increased. The abrogation of this antiquated obstruction to business has also been attended with the no small advantage of removing one of the many barriers which in these colonies impede the intercourse between the educated and the uneducated classes.

10. " An Act to enable the alien subjects of friendly powers to hold land " in Nevis without calling on them to renounce their natural allegiance." This enactment must be considered as supplemental to the free trade measure.

Population, Baptisms, Marriages, and Deaths.

It is gratifying to be able to report that the general population increases rapidly by an excess of births over deaths. The last census was taken on 1st June 1844, and returned the number of inhabitants at 9,571. But, as it was notorious that many persons had escaped enumeration, the number was by common consent fixed at 10,000. Since 1844, the population has been increasing so fast as to justify me, I am universally informed, in still adhering to the number of 10,000, although the island furnishes each year some immigrants to Trinidad, and despite the destruction of 1,000 persons by cholera. In 1855 the number of baptisms was 307, against 144 burials, showing an excess of births over deaths of 163, or more than double.

The remark I made in my report for 1854, that it was the prospect of death by cholera which so greatly increased the number of those who relinquished an illicit tie for the state of matrimony, has been fully verified. In the healthy year just elapsed, the number of marriages was only 73, against 163 in 1854, showing a diminution of 90.

Education.

The total number of children receiving instructions in the day schools is 708, and of children and adults attending Sunday schools 1,107. An increase of 65 in the day scholars, and a falling off of 29 in the frequenters of Sunday schools. On the whole, the state of things connected with education may be considered as tolerably satisfactory, making allowances for the circumstance that no public money is given in aid of the schools. The teaching is by no means what one would wish it to be, for the schoolmasters are obliged, under a voluntary system, to conform more than is desirable to the wishes of the parents, in order to prevent the withdrawal of the children, and thus the fathers and mothers, born in slavery, are the principal directors of public education. They have determined that it shall be such as to form an extensive display, no matter how shallow. Unfortunately this tuition is but too attractive to the children, who, becoming more learned than their parents, and having no standard by which to measure their intellectual acquirements, soon imagine themselves to be thoroughly educated, and that it is but waste of time, and a derogation to their dignity, to remain at school.

Conceiving it my duty to absent myself from the annual exhibition and distribution of prizes, where everything is done to unsettle the minds of the children, and unfit them for manfully and honestly earning their bread by

NEVIS.

humble and steady exertion, I yet offered the highest prize at my disposal to the competition of the boys,—employment at a small salary, and training to public business in my office, under the secretary, with the prospect of a permanent provision hereafter in one of the public departments.

The sons of black mothers are particularly ambitious of serving under the local Governments; but the clergyman who superintends the school informed me, that there is not one boy, though many of them have reached the age of 16, who has a sufficiently intelligent knowledge of the English language to be able to copy correctly the commonest letter. My offer was repeated the other day with the same result; still no boy competent to copy a letter. It is much to be regretted that the colony is too poor to permit us to make the schoolmasters more independent. As things now are, I am a little sceptical of the real benefit produced; yet as in these matters one never can tell what great results may spring from the humblest foundations, it is clearly our duty to do all we can to furnish every one with the means of improving himself, and leave the issue to a higher power.

Exchanges and Coins.

It has been the custom here for the last half century to give an artificial value in all local exchanges to the *peceta provinceal*, a Spanish coin of base silver, which purports on its issue from the mint to be worth the fifth part of the dollar, twenty cents, or their recognized equivalent, tenpence sterling, and at this rate it enjoys a tolerated though not legalized currency in the other West Indian colonies.

In Nevis, however, it is made to circulate at a fraction under elevenpence, and this over-valuation has driven away the legalized Spanish and English coins of intrinsic value. It is held by the people of this island that the over-rating the "peceta" is to be justified by its effect in retaining some sort of coin within the island; but while the exports may still be reckoned by the thousands of tons of sugar, I must regard any fear of a dearth of circulating medium as entirely visionary. The experience which has been worked out in Antigua, within a short distance of Nevis, shows that the best means of obtaining an abundant supply of sound metallic currency is to be found in the abolition of all artificial protection on any particular kind of coin.

Being alive to the difficulties which the habits and prejudices of a people oppose to a change in the currency to which they are habituated, I endeavoured to obtain, in the course of 1855, (although aware that it was competent to me to act alone,) the co-operation of the Legislative Houses in an order which I proposed issuing to the Treasurer, that he was, after a certain date, only to receive the "peceta" for tenpence, and by thus equalizing its estimation throughout the islands put a stop to its profitable importation to Nevis. The Council readily concurred with me, but the motion was lost in the Assembly, by the Speaker's casting vote. The anomaly therefore continues, of the whole revenue being collected in a coin which is not a legal tender. The increase of trade which has taken place since the opening of the port encourages me to hope that the inconvenience of the present system will be sufficiently developed to cause the Assembly to consent to its abrogation.

The following monies are a legal tender:—Spanish and Spanish Republican gold and silver, United States gold, English gold and English silver also, to an unlimited extent.

Imports and Exports.

The declared value of the imports was 19,728*l.* 6*s.*, against 20,933*l.* 9*s.*, in the preceding year. The principal falling off is in the importations from Great Britain to the extent of 2,648*l.* 4*s.* A decrease which I find no difficulty in accounting for. It was upon articles procured generally from Europe that the increased duty was thrown by the House of Assembly, in order to raise a considerable revenue. The consumption was checked, though perhaps not quite to the extent that these figures would indicate, for an unquestionable impetus was given to smuggling. It is stated by the collector of customs, at page 173, that the large amount of goods imported from the British West India colonies consists chiefly of goods from Great Britain shipped in vessels bound to St. Kitts, and transhipped for Nevis. This I conceive to be another

result of the late financial scheme. Goods were shipped to St. Kitts for the purpose of being smuggled into Nevis. It would signify but little to this colony whether goods were sent out direct from home, or by way of St. Kitts; but it is somewhat remarkable that the importation from the British islands, which ought, according to the Collector, to show an increase on account of the English trade passing through them, exhibits also on this year a diminution of 2,750*l.* 15*s.* The augmentation of the imports from North America reduces the total amount of deficiency, when compared with 1854, to 1,205*l.* 8*s.* The Blue Book shows, item by item, how the increase of duty has diminished legal importation; while the bread stuffs, which were not additionally taxed, and the number, which was partially relieved, exhibit an increase of 3,645*l.* 10*s.*, although the island has been visited by no blight of vegetables, nor by either earthquake or hurricane, entailing the necessity of repairing or renewing buildings.

On the other hand, the exports for 1855 show an increase of 6,181*l.* 17*s.*, and an excess of value of exports over imports of nearly 18,000*l.*

Tonnage and Crews of Vessels.

These tables are prepared in the form prescribed by Sir William Molesworth's Despatch of the 22d September 1855.

Prisons and Crime.

Every attention is given by the local authorities to the management of Charleston Gaol.

Much has been said and written of late respecting the supposed increase of crime in some of these islands, and the late Chief Justice of Nevis, who took a gloomy view of the subject, has published a small work in which allusion is made to our criminal statistics. It is true that crimes of violence are not uncommon. It is little more than two years since the President of the Council was murdered by broad daylight, in the market place; another murder and execution followed, some short time afterwards; and, still more recently, the rejoicings of this last New Year's Day were disturbed by the malicious burning alive of a child in the destruction of a house. Cases of stabbing occurred so frequently at one time that it was not easy to get a conviction by the negro jury (all the white men being then on the Grand Jury), however clear the evidence might be. The jurors thought the sentences awarded by the court too severe, and determined to acquit the prisoners. To prevent the entire escape of the offenders, some cases of cutting and wounding were disposed of by the magistrates like common assaults in a summary way. Crime had become a sort of epidemic at that time, and fresh cases of violence were heard of daily. The state of things has now become more healthy, and there are but two prisoners awaiting trial at the next sessions, which promise to be the lightest known for some years in Nevis.

It seems absurd, or at least paradoxical, to assert, that a population unusually careless of human life, and who, it must be confessed, are much addicted to petty theft, are not a bad people; yet I must venture to say so. Nowhere is the weight of the Government so little felt as here. We have scarcely any police, for it has been determined long ago in this island to depend almost entirely on religious and moral influences for the control of the people, and the expenses of the Church, as compared to the constabulary, are in the proportion of seven to one. The lower classes manage their own affairs in their small communities, and administer a sort of law, in which there is much of justice, among themselves. Pilfering is one of their slavish vices, which I trust religion, education, and increased communication with the rest of the world will in time subdue.

They do not seem as yet to feel how this despicable crime degrades the free man. A proper self-respect has got to be learned by the negro of Nevis, and the greatest bar to his acquisition of it is his miserable self-satisfied vanity. To prove that our people are not below some of their neighbours, I will again

NEVIS.

adduce the fact, that the children are generally well cared for, and thus the population increases rapidly. The number of births shows, as I think, also, the existence of a somewhat higher degree of morality.

Charitable Institutions.

At the Asylum, maintained by an annual grant of 150*l.*, in-door relief is provided for the infirm and destitute. No able-bodied person has ever been supported therein.

Concluding Remarks.

It is not a cheerful task to consider and comment on the yearly statistics of a colony so depressed as Nevis. Yet there must be hope for an island which possesses a secure and admirably situated harbour, a fertile soil, a fine climate, and a healthy population, with the tranquil enjoyment of its advantages guaranteed by the protection of the British Empire.

I allow myself to hope that the principal measure of the Legislation of 1855 will tend to increase the general wellbeing, not only in the way of material prosperity, but also in moral progress. A month has now elapsed since the commencement of our free trade. I am unwilling to found any too sanguine expectations on the experience of so limited a period, but facts, which cannot be disputed, serve to encourage us to look forward with increased confidence. The imports for the whole year, 1855, amounted to 19,728*l.* 6*s.* In the single month of March 1856 they have amounted to 12,141*l.* 5*s.* 2*d.*, or about two thirds of the total amount of the preceding year. The importations have thus in one month not fallen short of 25*s.* a head for every member of the community; and, as far as I can judge, the traffic in these few days of April shows a still increasing activity. Several new shops have already been opened in the town, and buildings are being prepared for others. House rent has in several instances risen threefold. The sound of the hammer is heard, and the smell of fresh paint experienced, among the houses, which but recently were crumbling under the rapid decay of neglected buildings in a tropical climate. Flour is cheaper than in the surrounding islands, and a barrel of it seems already to have found its way to the obscurest and most comfortless congregation of negro dwellings. The roads appear as if the greater part of the population had new clothed themselves, and in the harbour, so often entirely deserted, I now count ten ships of considerable burden.

But the negro must work if he would continue to enjoy good food and new clothes. If these wants of a more civilized state should acquire sufficient hold to tempt him to develop the resources which lie beneath his feet, all doubts would cease as to the new system of taxation proving as successful in practice as it is correct in principle.

I have, &c.,

His Excellency
The Governor-in-Chief.

(Signed) FREDERICK SEYMOUR.

VIRGIN ISLANDS.

No. 24.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor HAMILTON to the Right Honourable H. LABOUCHERE, M.P.

(Virgin Islands, No. 7.)

Leeward Islands, Antigua,
April 9, 1856.
(Received May 1, 1856.)

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to forward the "Blue Book" of the Virgin Islands for the year 1855, with President Kortright's Report thereon.

2. This Report derives additional interest from the fact that the affairs of the colony have been administered during the last year under a new form of government, and one, the suitableness of which to these colonies has lately been a good deal discussed. The functions exercised by the former Board of Council and House of Assembly have been devolved upon a Legislative Council, partly nominated, partly representative, in which the President administering the government has a casting vote.

3. Everywhere schemes owe their success and the varieties of their working to the circumstances of society, and these in the Virgin Islands are peculiar. The advantages that the greater part of the able-bodied men derive from the avocations they pursue in the neighbouring island of St. Thomas contribute nothing to the general prosperity of the place of their birth, and little to the permanent improvement of their own condition. On the other hand, those who remain in the islands find abundance of land—which, being thrown out of cultivation, is practically unappropriated land—and avail themselves of it to breed and raise cattle,—an occupation which is found so profitable as to lead the President to the expectation that in a few years the cultivation of the sugar cane will be abandoned.

4. Taking into account the general condition of the people of the Virgin Islands, the want of that variety in circumstances and occupation which in other countries creates a class competent to exercise the elective franchise, and the scarcity of men who, possessing the requisite intelligence and independence, are willing to devote their time and attention to legislative duties, the present system of government, which tends to render the executive authority less powerless, is found to be more suitable to the colony than its former Constitution.

I have, &c.
(Signed) KER B. HAMILTON.

Enclosure in No. 24.

(No. 8.)

Government House, Tortola,
March 12, 1856.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to transmit to you the Blue Book for 1855, together with my Report thereon.

2. On the 29th July 1854 the House of Assembly of these islands passed An "Act to amend the Constitution of the Virgin Islands," and on the 5th August it was received by the Legislative Council, and passed by that body. This Act was framed, at the recommendation of Her Majesty's Government, for the purpose of simplifying the legislative proceedings in these islands, by substituting for the House of Assembly and Council one body, composed of six elective and three non-elective members, the Governor or officer administering the government for the time being presiding at the Board.

VIRGIN ISLANDS. On the 27th February 1855 the late Governor-in-Chief of the Leeward Islands, Mr. Mackintosh, opened the Council in person.

3. The greater part of the ordinances passed during a continuous session of four months had for their object the better regulating the mode of levying the taxes, and the modifying some of them which appeared to bear with an unequal pressure. I am inclined to think that the most important and beneficial measure introduced is the "Wrecking Licence Ordinance." I regret to say that there have been two opportunities during the year of testing its efficiency. The practical working of the law appears to have given satisfaction to all parties concerned, and will, I trust, be the commencement of a new and less discreditable era in the wrecking annals of the Virgin Islands.

4. The revenue has not exceeded that of 1854, amounting to about 1,600*l.*, but the expenditure has been so materially reduced by the abolition of several useless offices, that the colony has been enabled to pay off all arrears due to public officers at the end of the previous year, and to show a balance in the public chest on the 31st December 1855.

5. The gaol is in good order. The number of prisoners committed during the year has been twenty-seven. Their offences have been generally of a most trivial nature,—petty assaults and larcenies.

6. The Asylum for the Poor has lately undergone some trifling repairs. There is, I regret to say, a daily increase in the number of inmates. It is to be feared that this institution may eventually prove a heavy charge upon the limited revenue of the colony. A very liberal offer of a grant of land, in part for the use of the poorhouse and in part for educational purposes, has been made by the Venerable Archdeacon Cummins, of Trinidad. I intend, as soon as practicable, to avail myself of this munificent proffer. The paupers who are able to do a little work will be called upon to assist in growing vegetables for their own use: this will, I hope, be of some service in reducing the expenses of the establishment.

7. The general state of the Virgin Islands, in so far as the tranquillity of the inhabitants is concerned, is satisfactory. The country people enjoy the comforts of rude life probably to a greater extent than the same class in many of the West India Islands. Taxation is so light as to be scarcely felt by them; their wants are few, and so easily supplied that they are scarcely called upon to perform any bodily labour; beyond planting a few potatoes and ground provisions for their own use, and for sale in St. Thomas. They are all, with few exceptions, owners of cattle, which they dispose of in the neighbouring island of St. Thomas to great advantage; and as the majority of the estates have been thrown out of cultivation or abandoned, the cattle have an extensive range of pasture land on which to fatten. Tortola is so suitable to the raising of stock of all descriptions, that I have little doubt that in a few years the cultivation of the sugar cane will be totally abandoned, and the whole country will be planted with Guinea grass, which grows here in great luxuriance. A ready market for good cattle may be found, as I have before remarked, in St. Thomas; and in the islands of St. Kitts and Antigua remunerating prices may be obtained.

8. I am sorry to say that the inhabitants of the town are not nearly so comfortably off as the country people. There is no business in which they can engage. Want of employment and naturally indolent habits have generated great poverty. Many respectable families, in former years in comparatively easy circumstances, have now become, from untoward occurrences, over many of which they have probably not been able to exercise any control, reduced to great distress.

9. The immediate vicinity of St. Thomas is, I am inclined to think, in many respects injurious to these islands. The intercourse, carried on by means of small boats, is so frequent that the inhabitants of this colony have learnt to regard St. Thomas as their market town for the sale of their produce, and for the purchase of all the supplies they require. So little support or encouragement is afforded to the few individuals who have opened small shops in Tortola, that their establishments never can rise above the level of the most petty shops in an English village.

10. The Royal Mail Steam Packet Company's coaling depôt in St. Thomas draws away the greater part of the able-bodied men from these islands: they obtain good wages; but so seldom do they remit any portion of their gains to their aged and impoverished relatives in their native place, that these latter are thrown upon the public for the means of supporting life. Hence the principal cause of the excessive expenses of the poorhouse.

11. The conflux of large numbers of uneducated persons of both sexes to these coal wharves naturally produces a vast amount of immorality and vice. Many children, male and female, of the ages of eight and nine years, are employed, and it cannot be a matter of astonishment that they should soon follow the example of depravity and dissoluteness set them by those with whom they come into hourly contact. The education they are likely to receive in such a school will hardly be calculated to make them hereafter good or useful members of society.

12. The sanitary condition of these islands is altogether satisfactory. No epidemic disease of any kind has visited them since the commencement of 1854, at which period Asiatic cholera committed great havoc. A few cases of intermittent fever, not of a severe type, existed at the latter end of the year. There is no hospital, and it is much to be regretted that the state of the funds of the colony do not admit of any steps being taken towards the commencement of so useful an establishment.

13. In November a clergyman was sent by the Bishop of Antigua to minister to the spiritual wants of the few members of the Church of England in this community. There had been no officiating minister prior to the arrival of the Reverend Mr. Matson for a period of nearly three years. The members of the Church had insensibly dwindled away to a very small number; and although I scarcely venture to hope that a large congregation will ever again be collected within the Virgin Islands, yet it is satisfactory to observe that there is already a decided though small numerical increase.

14. Schools in connexion with the Church of England are again about to be established, under the superintendence of the clergyman, and I trust I am not too sanguine in anticipating the best results from the diffusion of a little knowledge among the rising generation.

15. The salt ponds in Anegada and Salt Island yielded but little salt, owing principally to the heavy fall of rain at the commencement of the year, which flooded the ponds. From the want of the means of draining, the water became stagnant, and too impure to produce salt. Under any circumstances, however, the yield could have been but limited, unless the ponds had been cleaned, an essential for the production of a crop of even average quantity and quality. I purpose to introduce by legislative enactment a system for the better management of salt ponds, and hope to lay open a new and valuable field for industry.

I have, &c.

(Signed) C. H. KORTRIGHT.

His Excellency the Governor-in-Chief,
&c. &c. &c.

DOMINICA.

DOMINICA.

No. 25.

No. 25.

Copy of DESPATCHES from Governor Hamilton to the Right Hon. H. Labouchere.

(No. 15.)

Leeward Islands, Antigua,
May 10, 1856.
(Received June 5, 1856.)

Sir,

I have the honour to forward the "Blue Book" of Dominica for the year 1855, with the Lieutenant Governor's Report thereon.

2. Lieutenant Governor Blackall expresses his opinion of the value and importance of the services rendered by the stipendiary magistrates, and his apprehension of the loss the public service of the colony will sustain if it is deprived of such agencies. The efficient services which have been performed in the West Indian Colonies by officers holding the situation of stipendiary magistrate, and possessing the requisite qualifications, and the advantage it is that the Governors of those colonies should have such persons whose services they can command in various cases relating to the public service, induce me to request your favourable consideration of the Lieutenant Governor's remarks on the subject.

I have, &c.
(Signed) KER B. HAMILTON.

The Right Hon. Henry Labouchere, M.P.,
&c. &c. &c.

Encl. in No. 25.

Enclosure in No. 25.

Copy of a Despatch from Lieutenant Governor Blackall to his Excellency the Governor in Chief.

(No. 27.)

Government House, Roseau,
April 12, 1856.

Sir,

3 Enclosures.

I have the honour to forward to your Excellency three copies of the Blue Book for the year 1855, complete, with the exception of the Returns of Imports and Exports and List of Shipping.

These returns were formerly compiled by the Comptroller of Imperial Customs, whose duties have now been transferred to the Colonial Treasurer, and that officer has represented to me that a press of business, combined with impaired health, have been the causes of the omission.

Any report upon these books should more properly have been made by the President of the Council, who administered the Government during the whole of the year, but that gentleman's present state of health unfortunately precluding the possibility of his doing so, I am induced to offer a few observations which occur to me from the consideration of the circumstances developed, and my former experience of the condition of the colony.

Finance.

I regret to be obliged still to report upon the very deranged state of the finances of the island, and this notwithstanding additional taxation, and an increase to a certain extent upon the import duties. The principal diminution of revenue is to be found under the import and rum duties, the former having declined in two years from 5,325*l.* 1*s.* 7*d.* to 3,382*l.* 15*s.* 6*d.*, and the latter from 1,741*l.* 7*s.* 6*d.* to 931*l.* 13*s.* 2*d.*

A healthy reaction, I am happy to say, has taken place in the amount of imports during the current quarter, and this may be considered as the result of the improved prices realized for sugar towards the close of last year in England; but as a reduction has since occurred the increased revenue cannot be counted upon as permanent.

The decline of the amount collected under the rum duty is the natural consequence of a refusal on the part of one branch of the Legislature to allow proper Excise supervision, except over those who are not really the parties inclined to defraud the revenue. I am in hopes, however, that the mistake has now become too patent to be allowed much longer to continue.

Legislation.

The legislative measures passed during the year will be found of the same meagre description as I have alluded to in my former reports, particularly that accompanying the Blue Book for 1852; and I observe that the same result is commented upon, and the same remedy proposed, as I then suggested, in an address lately delivered by the Lieutenant Governor of St. Vincent to the legislative bodies of that island.

Crops and Labour.

The produce for this year promises to be about the usual average. The preparation for next crop, however, is much more extended, which may be traced to two causes; one the increase of prices, to which I have alluded, and the other the greater confidence which has been imputed to some of the larger proprietors by a settlement of the "Hurricane Loan," and which, though it may entail a present loss upon the Home Government, will, I am satisfied, be productive of the most beneficial results to this colony; and I am aware of the deep feeling of gratitude which exists for the very liberal manner in which this matter has been dealt with by the authorities in England; whilst I have the gratification of saying that the agitation of this question has not resulted in a single estate being thrown out of cultivation.

Public Gaol.—Crime and its Suppression.

The report of the Provost Marshal (including a Table, which I append,) gives a gratifying account of a steady diminution in crime. I drew attention to this in my report accompanying the Blue Book of 1853, as a proof of the mode of punishment most suited to make an impression upon the population of these islands. The gaol, though small, is suited to the purpose, affording means of separating the convicted criminals during the night; and this success fully bears out the observation recently addressed by the Chief Justice of Antigua to the grand jury as to the absence of such a mode of enforcing discipline being calculated to lessen the tedium of imprisonment. I should, however, be doing injustice to the services of the stipendiary and police magistrates were I not also to bear testimony to the result of their exertions. To the former is intrusted the whole of the country districts, with little exception, and I confess I look forward with apprehension to the policy which will deprive the colony of such services. It is quite impossible that the finances of so small an island can ever afford funds sufficient to induce gentlemen of the class who now hold these appointments to reside in this country; gentlemen who are not only useful in the peculiar office which they fill, but are constantly called on to perform other duties, and who set an example of energy and activity most useful in the community. To the police magistrate is intrusted the peace of the town; and to the untiring zeal of the present police magistrate, Mr. Edward Lockhart, who has the small force of 12 men at his command, is to be attributed a marked improvement in the general conduct of the inhabitants of the town. In addition to which, I can bear testimony to the value of the exertions of himself and his small corps in case of fire, when, from discipline, they have extinguished a conflagration which had baffled the exertions of some hundreds of appalled spectators.

Education.

I much regret to have to say, that with an expenditure which does great credit to the liberality of the colony the progress of education is not satisfactory. The present Act will expire next year, and from the general feeling evinced on the subject it will not, I apprehend, be renewed in its present state. I am endeavouring to gather the opinions of those who would probably have most power and inclination to carry out the object, for the purpose of submitting a new scheme before the termination of the year. My own impression is that we have begun in too high a key. The subjects chosen are of too scientific a character even for a labouring population much more advanced in civilization than ours. A little reading, writing, and arithmetic,—strict attention to discipline and habits of industry,—and, above all, the inculcation of moral axioms,—the propriety of an adherence to truth, honesty, and virtue,—with a recognition that we are all sent here to fulfil our duties in a certain sphere,—is the mode of education which

DOMINICA.

the rising generation of these islands more particularly require. I am informed generally that under the present system the scholars do not improve in habits, manners, or conduct; whilst the want of respect to any superior, and the evident absence of discrimination between the honest assertion of liberty and the overbearing swagger of licence, is painfully observable amongst the younger portion of the population; and the ministers of religion state that the difficulties in controlling them in a moral point of view are daily increasing.

General Observations.

It is very gratifying to me to find a general acquiescence at present in the justice and policy of the views which I have at various times submitted to the consideration of the other branches of the Legislature, and a desire to carry them into effect, but until the finances of the colony are relieved from the present embarrassment the means of carrying out improvements must be limited. I trust, however, by strict economy during the year, and submitting, as all classes appear ready to do, to additional taxation, I may be able next year to give a report of a more pleasing character.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) SAM[L] W. BLACKALL,
Lieut. Governor.

		Death.		Hard Labour.		Simple Imprisonment.	
		M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Summary of criminal sentences	1855	—	—	55	20	37	24
	1854	—	—	69	27	39	23
	1853	1*	—	73	38	59	28
	1852	—	—	70	89	73	65
Paid their fees in gaol, and saved wholly or partially the hard labour imprisonment.	1855	-	-	3	2	8	7
	1854	-	-	7	3	8	2
	1853	-	-	86	5	4	10
	1852	-	-	22	26	6	29

Total of Fines so paid	1855	-£16 0 6
	1854	- 25 1 0
	1853	- 29 16 8
	1852	- 59 4 9½

*Commuted into transportation for life.

No. 26.

Copy of a DESPATCH from Governor Hamilton to the Right Hon. H. Labouchere.

(No. 16.)

Leeward Islands, Antigua,
May 22, 1856.
(Received June 16, 1856.)

Sir,

I have the honour to transmit Returns of the Imports and Exports of the Island of Dominica, which should have been contained in the Blue Book for the last year, forwarded in my Despatch, No. 15., of the 10th instant.

2. The cause of the omission was explained by the Lieutenant Governor, in his Report to me accompanying the Blue Books, to be press of business in the Treasurer's Office, combined with the impaired health of that Officer on whom now devolves the preparation of these Returns.

I have, &c.
(Signed) KER B. HAMILTON.

The Right Hon. Henry Labouchere, M.P.,
&c. &c. &c.

IMPORTS AND EXPORTS FOR THE YEAR 1855.

IMPORTS.

Articles Imported. Description and Quantity.	Estimated Value in Sterling. From Great Britain.	British Colonies. West Indies.	British Colonies. North America.	British Colonies. Elsewhere.	United States of America.	Foreign States.	Total.
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Ale, &c., 4,112 Gallons	111	103	- -	- -	- -	300	514
Animals, Living, various	- -	98	- -	- -	- -	255	353
Blacking	- -	2	- -	- -	- -	- -	2
Bricks, Tiles, &c., various	29	70	- -	- -	- -	- -	99
Butter, 231 Cwt.	31	264	- -	- -	62	682	1,039
Candles, various	132	510	- -	- -	- -	137	779
Cheese, 17 Cwt.	44	24	- -	- -	- -	14	82
Coals, 4 Tons	6	2	- -	- -	- -	- -	8
Coffee, 10 Cwt.	- -	28	- -	- -	- -	- -	28
Cordage	- -	1	- -	- -	- -	- -	1
Corks	- -	1	- -	- -	- -	- -	1
Corn; viz. Grain, Flour, Peas, Beans, &c. &c.	254	4,000	2,555	- -	6,898	191	13,898
Cottons, &c. &c., various	141	129	- -	- -	- -	23	293
Earthenware	88	108	- -	- -	- -	80	276
Fire Arms and Works	4	- -	- -	- -	- -	3	7
Fruit, various	113	3,746	133	80	73	810	4,955
Fruit, Vegetables, &c.	18	231	5	- -	- -	35	289
Furniture	7	16	- -	- -	- -	12	35
Glass	18	21	- -	- -	- -	1	40
Hardware	41	33	- -	- -	- -	1	75
Hats, Bonnets, &c.	- -	55	- -	- -	2	25	82
Jewellery	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	7	7
Lard	- -	237	50	- -	102	2	391
Lime, various	21	18	- -	- -	- -	148	187
Leather, ditto	2	15	- -	- -	- -	22	39
Machinery, Implements, Utensils, &c.	629	111	- -	- -	- -	47	787
Manure	918	526	- -	- -	- -	800	2,244
Matches	- -	8	- -	- -	- -	3	11
Meats, Cured, various	43	976	- -	- -	552	103	1,674
Medicines	24	4	- -	- -	23	7	58
Metals	3	184	- -	- -	- -	- -	187
Nuts	- -	2	- -	- -	- -	44	46
Oilcake	20	43	- -	- -	- -	- -	63
Oils	28	46	- -	- -	- -	414	488
Pepper	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	1	1
Perfumery	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	4	4
Rice, various	8	264	- -	- -	- -	81	283
Salt, ditto	8	79	- -	- -	- -	265	352
Silk, Indian	6	17	- -	- -	- -	- -	23
Soap, 216 Cwt.	85	130	- -	- -	- -	7	222
Spirits	37	81	- -	- -	- -	7	125
Stationery	47	50	- -	- -	- -	2	99
Sugar, various	243	65	- -	- -	- -	13	321
Tallow	- -	33	- -	- -	- -	- -	33
Tan, &c.	3	26	- -	- -	- -	16	45
Tea	33	1	- -	- -	- -	6	40
Tobacco, various	- -	928	- -	- -	424	22	1,374
Vermicelli	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	42	42
Vinegar	- -	2	- -	- -	- -	14	16
Water, Sweetened, Soda, &c.	- -	3	- -	- -	- -	29	32
Wood, Lumber, Staves, Shingles, &c. &c.	455	298	1,134	- -	805	468	3,160
*Non-enumerated Goods, chiefly Stores of Hardwaremen, Drapers, Estates, &c. &c.	6,523	4,364	- -	- -	- -	194	11,081
Total Imports, 1855	10,173	17,953	3,877	80	8,941	5,267	46,291
Total Imports, 1854	20,113	10,667	2,288	2	11,623	7,816	52,509

* Goods subject to a fixed Duty, not particularly specified in the Treasury Books, but given as here in gross Value.

DOMINICA.

EXPORTS.

Articles Exported. Description and Quantity.	Estimated Value in Sterling. To Great Britain.	British Colonies. West Indies.	British Colonies. North America.	British Colonies. Elsewhere.	United States of America.	Foreign States.	Total.
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Ale, &c., 416 Gallons	-	40	-	-	-	-	40
Animals, 4 large, 25 small	-	130	-	-	-	31	161
Butter, various	-	88	-	-	-	-	88
Clock, a	-	3	-	-	-	-	3
Cottons, Clothing, &c.	5	135	-	-	-	200	340
Candles, various	-	38	-	-	-	-	38
Corn, Wheat, Flour, Oats, Indian Peas, Beans, &c.	260	4,123	34	-	-	621	5,038
Fish; various	-	220	-	-	-	170	390
Earthenware	1	5	-	-	-	5	11
Furniture	-	-	-	-	-	6	6
Fuel 343 Cords, 210 Bushels Charcoal, 4 Tons Coal	-	190	-	-	-	24	214
Hardware	-	93	-	-	2	4	99
Hats	-	20	-	-	-	-	20
Leather	8	-	-	-	-	-	8
Meats 30 Bls and 189 Cwt.	8	559	-	-	12	21	600
Lard 5 Bls and 10 Cwt. 1 qr. 19 lbs.	-	58	-	-	-	-	58
Machinery Implements, Utensils, &c., &c.	-	233	-	-	-	20	253
Mill Grease	-	8	-	-	-	-	8
Metals	-	40	-	-	9	-	49
Oil Meal	-	24	-	-	-	8	32
Oil	-	10	-	-	-	-	10
Punchn, Packs	-	52	-	-	-	-	52
Rice, 25 Cwt. 1 qr.	-	-	-	-	-	50	50
Silk, Indian	-	41	-	-	-	24	65
Spirits, Brandy 136 Galls., Gin 15 Galls.	-	110	-	-	-	2	112
Tea, 1 Chest	-	12	-	-	-	-	12
Tobacco, 3,218 lbs.	-	64	-	-	-	-	64
Wine, 126 Madeira, 16 Champagne, 23 Sauterne	65	75	-	-	-	-	140
Wood, Shingles, Staves, Hoops, &c., &c.	-	85	-	-	-	24	109
The following are the produce of Dominica :—							
Baskets, Indian	4	-	-	-	-	-	4
Cotton, raw	18	-	-	-	-	-	18
Hides, 1,000	30	-	-	-	-	-	30
Horns, 152	6	-	-	-	-	-	6
Fruit, Vegetables*, Farina, Arrowroot, &c.	9	49	-	-	-	2	60
Cocoa, 57,327 lbs.	16	840	-	-	-	-	856
Coffee, 24,243 lbs.	12	70	-	-	-	476	558
Lime Juice, 1,190 Galls.	28	32	-	-	-	-	60
Molasses, 23,245 Galls.	710	-	-	-	-	162	872
Rum, 68,600 Gallons	8,000	-	-	-	-	808	8,808
Sugar†, 4,483,000 lbs.	43,659	17	-	-	-	2,900	46,576
Wood, Logwood	36	-	-	-	-	-	36
Total Exports 1855	52,875	7,464	34	-	23	5,558	65,954
Total Exports 1854	64,261	8,608	-	-	198	5,088	78,155

* Large Exportations of Fruit and Vegetables occasionally take place, chiefly to America, but not being subject to Duty are not recorded in the Treasury Books.

† The Sugar of *Three* Quarters alone is given, no Vessel having sailed from Dominica for Great Britain in the December Quarter.

Shipping for the Year 1855.

No. 1.—Number, Tonnage, and Crews of Vessels Entered at Ports in the Colony of Dominica from each Country in the Year 1855.

Countries whence arrived.	Entered.								
	With Cargoes.			In Ballast.			Total.		
	Vessels.	Tons.	Crews.	Vessels.	Tons.	Crews.	Vessels.	Tons.	Crews.
Great Britain - -	4	1,334	60	1	234	11	5	1,568	71
British Colonies - -	90	3,105	440	44	993	191	134	4,098	631
United States - -	5	725	31	—	—	—	5	725	31
Other Foreign States -	100	1,480	447	41	935	142	141	2,415	589
Total -	—	—	—	—	—	—	285	8,806	1,332

No. 2.—Number, Tonnage, and Crews of Vessels Cleared at Ports in the Colony of Dominica from each Country in the Year 1855.

Countries whence arrived.	Cleared.								
	With Cargoes.			In Ballast.			Total.		
	Vessels.	Tons.	Crews.	Vessels.	Tons.	Crews.	Vessels.	Tons.	Crews.
Great Britain - -	10	2,012	114	—	—	—	10	2,012	114
British Colonies - -	116	2,551	415	18	284	101	134	2,835	516
United States - -	5	733	39	2	244	10	7	977	49
Other Foreign States -	67	1,090	242	59	991	215	126	2,081	457
Total -	—	—	—	—	—	—	277	7,905	1,136

No. 3.—Number, Tonnage, and Crews of Vessels of each Nation Entered at Ports in the Colony of Dominica in the Year 1855.

Nationality of Vessels.	Entered.								
	With Cargoes.			In Ballast.			Total.		
	Vessels.	Tons.	Crews.	Vessels.	Tons.	Crews.	Vessels.	Tons.	Crews.
Vessels belonging to—									
Great Britain - -	6	1,710	74	3	725	37	9	2,435	111
British Colonies -	151	3,833	724	53	1,298	220	204	5,131	944
United States - -	4	536	24	—	—	—	4	536	24
Other Foreign States -	38	525	156	30	149	87	68	674	243
Total -	—	—	—	—	—	—	285	8,826	1,322

No. 4.—Number, Tonnage, and Crews of Vessels of each Nation Cleared at Ports in the Colony of Dominica in the Year 1855.

Nationality of Vessels.	Cleared.								
	With Cargoes.			In Ballast.			Total.		
	Vessels.	Tons.	Crews.	Vessels.	Tons.	Crews.	Vessels.	Tons.	Crews.
Vessels belonging to—									
Great Britain - -	8	1,684	92	1	153	6	9	1,837	98
British Colonies -	139	3,551	547	55	790	229	194	4,341	776
United States - -	4	691	25	3	388	16	7	1,079	41
Other Foreign States -	47	470	146	20	178	75	67	648	221
Total -	—	—	—	—	—	—	277	7,905	1,136

MAURITIUS.

MAURITIUS.

No. 27.

No. 27.

Copy of a DESPATCH from Governor Higginson to the Right Hon. H. Labouchere, M.P.

(No. 94.)

Mauritius, May 13, 1856.
(Received September 3, 1856.)

Sir,

In obedience to standing instructions, I beg leave to transmit herewith the Blue Book for 1855, together with the annual report on the general condition and prospects of the colony.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. M. HIGGINSON.

The Right Hon. H. Labouchere, M.P.
&c. &c. &c.

Encl. in No. 27.

Enclosure in No. 27.

Mauritius, May 31, 1856.

Revenue and Expenditure.

Annual Report.

1. The financial operations of the year exhibit favourable results, and show that the elasticity of our revenue has not diminished.

2. The revenue and expenditure were respectively 348,452*l.* 15*s.* 4¼*d.* and 317,839*l.* 5*s.* 8¾*d.*, leaving a surplus revenue of 30,613*l.* 9*s.* 7½*d.* The revenue fell short of that of the previous year by 18,414*l.* 7*s.* 4*d.*, arising chiefly from the importations in 1855 not having been so large as those of 1854, and from the extra duty of 6*d.* per 100 lbs. on sugar exported since September 1854, imposed by ordinance 27 of 1854, not having been levied in 1855; whilst in the expenditure the reduction is more considerable, owing principally to the augmented charge on account of immigration in 1854, which reached 120,414*l.* 19*s.* 4*d.*, while that for 1855 only amounted to 66,225*l.* 13*s.* 10*d.*

3. A comparison of the actual and estimated receipts shows an excess in the former of 28,952*l.*, principally in the items of harbour dues, registration dues, sale of colonial spirits, and duty on immigrant engagements; the actual disbursements exceeding the estimate by 12,732*l.* 3*s.* 11*d.*, arising from the amount paid by the colonial agent for anchors supplied by the Admiralty, cholera and quarantine expenses, and return passage of time-expired immigrants.

4. The following statement of revenue and expenditure during the last five years shows an aggregate surplus revenue of 161,915*l.* 8*s.* 8*d.*:—

—	Revenue.			Expenditure.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
1851	321,389	18	10	246,932	17	2¾
1852	311,854	5	2	283,053	0	3¾
1853	318,750	18	3¾	285,204	2	3¾
1854	366,867	2	8½	372,370	6	2¼
1855	348,452	15	4¾	317,839	5	8¾
	1,667,315	0	4¾	1,505,399	11	9¼

Taxes during the same period having been repealed to the amount of 55,800*l.* per annum. At the same time the Government establishments have been extended, and other institutions of public utility maintained upon a scale commensurate with the exigencies of a rapidly increasing population.

5. The finances of the colony may therefore for the present be considered as resting on a very satisfactory footing. We are free from debt, with a considerable reserve fund to meet unforeseen contingencies; but the popular tendency leans more to prodigality than to economy, and unremitting vigilance over the public expenditure is demanded to keep it within reasonable limits. The existence of the reserve fund and the continued buoyancy of our resources encourages the tendency to a less frugal management of them.

Imports and Exports.

6. The value of imports is less than that of 1854, being respectively 1,492,788*l.* 7*s.* 3*d.* and 1,356,300*l.* 15*s.* 3*d.*, whilst that of exports exceeds the previous year by 601,689*l.* 15*s.* 3*d.*, aggregating 1,848,090*l.* 13*s.* 11*d.*; the excess arising from the more abundant crop of sugar.

The value of imports and exports stands respectively at 1,356,300*l.* 15*s.* 3*d.* and 1,848,090*l.* 13*s.* 11*d.*, showing an excess in the latter over the former of 491,789*l.* 18*s.* 8*d.*

I transmit a comparative statement of the principal articles imported and exported during the last four years, which was published in one of the colonial journals. Encl. No. 1.

7. Our trade with Madagascar reopened in 1854. The value of our exports thither, consisting chiefly of hardware, machinery, cotton stuffs, bricks, beer, and spirituous liquors, in 1855 trebled that of the previous year; the value of our imports having only slightly increased. If the opportunity thus afforded be properly improved, and nothing should occur to disturb our friendly relations with this magnificent island, we may confidently look for the gradual establishment of a considerable and productive commerce with its inhabitants. Our market is now abundantly supplied from thence with beef of good quality, and at little more than half the price that was previously paid for it. The enterprise of the house of Messrs. Menon, Lambert, & Co., who have employed a steamer in the transport of these cattle, has contributed largely to an object of so much value, especially to the poorer classes of the community.

8. The return of shipping in the new form required by circular letter of the 22d September last exhibits a considerable increase in the number and tonnage of vessels, both British and foreign, but especially in the latter. And this increase has been progressive since the modification of the navigation laws. I annex a return prepared by order of the Chamber of Commerce, from which it will be seen that the foreign tonnage entering Port Louis has increased from 8,634 tons in 1849 to 45,098 tons in 1854, while the increase of British within the same period was from 108,653 tons to 150,439. The amount of tonnage entered in 1855 was 155,307 tons British, and 60,549 tons foreign. Shipments of sugar in foreign bottoms have increased, but are still very limited, about one fifth of the whole; shipments to the Australian colonies are also on the increase, being for the last three years respectively :— Encl. No. 2.

	Cwts.	qrs.	lbs.
1853 - -	231,900	1	25
1854 - -	189,175	1	21
1855 - -	262,720	1	16

Freight to Europe during the year has averaged 4*l.* 1*s.* 11*d.*

9. Mauritius has benefited largely by the removal of bygone restrictions from trade and shipping, whilst her liberal and open tariff of customs duties has contributed to the same end.

Population.

10. There was a net decrease of population in 1855, obtained on a comparison of births and deaths, of 1,209, the deaths having numbered 7,175, or 3·5 per cent. on the entire population. In 1854, owing to the prevalence of epidemic cholera, the decrease was 8,929, the deaths having in that year reached 14,775, or 7 per cent. on the entire population. Consequently the decrease of population in 1855 was 14 per cent. of the decrease in 1854.

11. If the details of these figures be analyzed it will be found, that in 1854 there were amongst the general population 33 per cent. more deaths than births, whereas in 1855 the births were 25 per cent. more than the deaths.

MAURITIUS.

Amongst the ex-apprentice population the deaths in 1854 were 66 per cent. more than the births, but in 1855 this preponderance was diminished to 20 per cent. And lastly, in 1854 the births amongst the immigrant population were to the deaths as 39 to 100, while in 1855 the proportion rose to 65 per cent.

12. The births in 1855 show an increase over those of the preceding year of 110, but this increase is entirely to be found in two out of the three classes of the population, the third or ex-apprentice class showing a remarkable decrease. Thus, the births in the general population exceeded those of the previous year by 59, and those in the Indian population by 202, while, on the other hand, in the ex-apprentice class there is a numerical decrease of births of no less than 151. On further analyzing the details of Indian births, it will appear that the increase of male births was only 88, whereas the increase of female births rises to 114; the total of female births in each year having been 982 and 1,096 respectively. And these results are obtained from a population in which the proportion of women was on the 31st December 1854 26·1 per cent., and on the 31st December 1855 28·09 per cent.

13. Again, as compared with these proportions of the two sexes at the close of each year, there is not only a very large absolute, but a still more considerable proportionate, increase of marriages amongst this class of the population; for while in 1854, in a population of 96,142 male and 25,181 female immigrants, there were only 39 marriages, in 1855, when the numbers were 100,541 and 28,245, they rose to 66. And in studying the interesting problem of a prospective equalization of the sexes, it must be remembered that these figures and facts act upon each other in compound ratio, and that every year, besides the very large proportion of women introduced who become permanent residents (for but very few return to their country), there is gradually growing up amongst us a new Indo-Creole race, not migratory and nomadic in their habits, nor even denizenized immigrants like their parents before them, but Mauritius-born sons and daughters of the soil, bound to it by the ties of birth, of earliest associations, and of those habits which grow daily with their growth and strengthen with their strength.

14. During the latter part of the year smallpox broke out in town and in some of the country districts, and though it cannot be said to have raged with any considerable violence, it nevertheless has contributed in some degree to enhance the mortality, and to account for the excess of deaths over births which I have before adverted to. I transmit a report from the Chief Medical Officer upon the cause and progress of the epidemic; also a return showing the number of deaths in each class of the population up to the end of the year.

Encl. No. 3.

15. The most noticeable feature in this return is the disproportionate mortality amongst the ex-apprentice class, which indeed appears peculiarly liable to epidemic disease, and is that class which invariably suffers most. When the census of 1851 was taken this class represented 27 per cent. of the entire population, a proportion which has since been considerably lessened by the visitations of cholera and smallpox, and by the annual excess of deaths over births, invariably incidental to this class. But on the gross return of deaths from smallpox in 1855, the deaths in this class were 45 per cent., while the deaths from the same cause in the general population were only 33 per cent., and in the Indian population 22 per cent., the percentage of the former class on the entire population at the same date being 30, and of the latter class 43.

Ecclesiastical.

16. The Protestant Church of Mauritius has hailed the advent of its first bishop with gratified and hopeful feelings, for the realization of which the eminent judgment already displayed and the conciliatory course pursued by this excellent prelate augur most favourably.

Since the new military chaplain has joined the ecclesiastical establishment, it is composed of four chaplains and the bishop. Two more have recently been ordained—maintained from funds at the disposal of the bishop—and are, I learn, labouring most usefully,—one amongst the Indian immigrants, the other officiating in the Sailors' Home, which I am happy to say has lately been opened, chiefly through the laudable exertions of Captain Kelly, the late harbour master, a hulk for the purpose having been purchased by voluntary subscriptions.

The new church at Mahébourg, recently completed, is a handsome and substantial edifice, with sittings for 420 persons, to be used jointly by the military and civil congregations. Another church is about being erected in the district of Pamplemousses.

17. The new Presbyterian church in Port Louis has likewise been completed, and another Independent chapel at Grand River; the latter by the benevolent liberality of Mr. Noel Jalaffe, a gentleman of the coloured community.

18. Our able and active Roman Catholic prelate continues to manifest in the exercise of his exalted functions the zeal and devotion for which he has long been remarkable. And though, perhaps, the improvement in the religious and moral condition of the masses who profess that faith may not have kept pacé with the efforts directed towards that end, undeniable progress has been made.

19. Measures have been taken to gradually augment the strength of the Roman Catholic establishment, consisting at present of thirteen priests, which is totally incommensurate with the numbers of the population entrusted to its spiritual care. But the difficulty experienced in finding priests who are British subjects, and at the same time familiar with the French language, tends to retard the projected augmentation.

Education.

20. The peculiar and formidable impediments opposed in this colony to educational progress have been repeatedly represented. The momentous question has often occupied the anxious attention of the local government, and more recently with better prospect of practical results.

21. The following paragraph, from a minute presented by me to the Legislative Council, briefly enumerates the measures contemplated for the extension of elementary instruction amongst the children of the labouring classes, both Creole and Indian:—"It will be observed, from the foregoing remarks, that I "concur in the opinion expressed by the committee, of the social and political "advantages to be gained from a combined system of instruction adapted to the "intellectual development of both Creole and Indian children; but conceiving "there are very formidable if not insurmountable impediments to the execution "of this plan, I recommend the formation of schools for Indians, as being on "the whole the best adapted to the object, and more easy of accomplishment; "that a limited number only should at first be tried; that teachers and suitable "books in the vernacular dialects should be obtained from India; that the "schools should be placed under the supervision of inspectors familiar with the "operation of similar schools in India; that as regards further provision for "the instruction of Creole children, the working of the existing Government "schools should be carefully examined and duly tested before they are aug-"mented; that effective means should be taken to render these schools more "popular and useful; and that in reference to both sections of the population, "compulsory education should be gradually introduced; and that 'grants in "aid' should be made by the Government to all elementary schools, without "distinction of race or creed."

22. The Council concur in these views, except as regards the formation of separate Indian schools, they recommending that the children of both races should be taught in the same school, and through the same lingual medium, the Creole or patois of the island. The annual grant estimated for schools in 1857 has been considerably augmented, being raised from 5,614*l.* 16*s.* to 8,788*l.* 8*s.*, exclusive of the Royal College, the annual charge for which amounts to 7,016*l.* 8*s.*, the expenses of sending yearly two pupils to England, instead of one, accounting for the increase. The usual report from the rector is annexed. Encl. No. 4.

23. Amongst the pupils who are sent home to complete their education in one of the British Universities, three (all young men of colour) within the last few years have been remarkably distinguished, competing with signal success for honours, and reflecting credit on our colonial institution.

24. In consequence of the departure at the end of the year of the superintendent of Government schools, on leave of absence, I am unable to furnish his annual report, but there are no material changes recorded, except that of the appointment of visitors to the schools in the rural districts, to whom the circular letter annexed has been addressed. Encl. No. 5.

MAURITIUS.

Legislation.

25. The proceedings of the Legislative Council bear testimony to the same desire for enlightened social progress which has heretofore characterized them. Of the ordinances which have been passed, the most important, in my opinion, is that " to enable Persons at their own Expense to procure Immigrants from India." The planters have long desired the freedom conferred on them by this ordinance, considering it a hardship to be prevented from obtaining labour sufficient for their requirements, and at the periods when they most needed it, they being prepared to defray the whole expense of its importation.

26. Much benefit is also expected, and indeed I am informed has already been derived, from the ordinance to facilitate the remedies on bills of exchange, &c., by preventing frivolous or fictitious defences to actions thereon, effecting a reform which was represented by the Judges of the Supreme Court to be urgently required.

27. Other jurisprudential improvements are under consideration, and will, I trust, at no distant period be accomplished. The consolidation and amendment of the Insolvent Laws, a more economical administration of intestate estates, and a revised tariff of judicial charges generally, appear to be the more prominent. An ordinance to establish the latter, and to confer on Judges discretionary power to dispense with English translations of documentary evidence, is now before Council, by which it is designed to both cheapen and expedite the dispensing of justice.

Grants of Land.

28. A reference to the return comprised in the Blue Book under this head will show that there have been but three grants of land made during the year 1855, and that these consisted of very small plots of ground (aggregating but thirty-four and a half square yards), all within the town of Port Louis. It is, indeed, within the town principally that Crown lands are sought after, and even there rather under lease than for purchase. But neither in number nor in value do the leases granted in 1855 seem to call for special remark. I am, however, led to suppose that when the survey of the lands within the municipality limits, now going on, be completed, an additional revenue may be raised by the sale or lease of the plots at present occupied by squatters on sufferance. Every opportunity is likewise taken to convert the old grants termed " en jouissance," or leases at will, on a nominal rent, into leases for a term of years, at their estimated value, or to a deed of sale.

29. The ordinance for the preservation of woods, forests, and rivers has been in partial operation during the year, and I believe with adequate success. When first brought into force, an experimental staff was organized in three of the rural districts, which has since been dispersed over five instead of three districts; but I cannot as yet venture to say that this small body, so dispersed, will be sufficient to perform the important duties devolving upon it. It is an experiment; but should success justify the measure, I shall not hesitate to recommend the appointment of the full number of rangers submitted to the sanction of Her Majesty's Government. The conservation and restoration of timber and water, both of which, especially the former, are understood to be much diminished, and in course of gradual exhaustion, are considered of vital importance to the profitable cultivation of our staple product; and every effort should be made to attain the objects designed by this enactment. Besides, apart these objects, it must be remembered that the law bears also an important social aspect. Squatters, vagrants, and, above all, illicit distillers, have too often found a secure and unmolested means of subsistence in these trackless forests; and in unearthing these latter defrauders of the revenue and propagators of crime, the ranger force has not unfrequently rendered good service to the community.

Public Works and Roads.

30. Two lighthouses have been completed, the main light on Flat Island, with a subsidiary one on Cannonier Point. Two mast lights have also been erected for the purpose of guiding ships into the harbour. As I observed on a previous occasion, the utility of the latter is very questionable. But the effect

of the other two is entirely satisfactory, and will doubtless prove of essential service to our port, rendering shipwrecks, which have heretofore been of too frequent occurrence on this coast, hardly possible, provided there be the most ordinary care and knowledge on the part of masters.

31. In the districts of Flacq and Black River, police stations and officers' quarters are in course of construction. It is expected that when the contemplated erection of similar buildings in all the districts of the island is completed, it will conduce materially to the efficiency of the police force, whilst it will ultimately prove a measure of economy, by getting rid of the annual rent now paid for inferior and often ill-adapted accommodation.

32. Quarters have also been built for the assistant surgeon at the Civil Hospital which were much needed.

33. The only entirely new road commenced was that leading from Mahébourg through the valley of the Cent Gaulettes, which, when finished, will connect the grand port and Moka districts, and curtail the distance between our two principal towns by four or five miles, passing by the "Piton du milieu de l'Isle," through the forest of Trois Islots and Moka, and opening up to settlement and cultivation extensive tracts of virgin land, now untilled and inaccessible. It has however, besides, been determined to restore some old and useful lines of communication which are demanded to meet the wants of enlarged production and a rapidly increasing population.

34. The system of keeping our roads in repair has been for some time in a state of transition, from that of contracts to the direct agency of the Surveyor-General's department, partly by convict and partly by hired labour, and, in consequence, their condition has somewhat deteriorated. The change has, however, now been nearly perfected, and more effective arrangements have been made for repairing and maintaining all those denominated main or Government roads, and kept up at the sole charge of the Government treasury. But the branch and bye roads generally are in an indifferent condition, in consequence of the mode of management hitherto adopted having failed to work. By the system in force, the repair of these roads is made to depend on the contribution by the inhabitants more directly interested of one moiety of the charge to be incurred, the Government granting the other. But after some years' experience it has been found that, either from insufficiently appreciating the object, or from the absence of local organization, or from an opinion pretty generally entertained that all roads should be maintained at the Government expense, the inhabitants prefer leaving these roads in a neglected and nearly impassable state to spontaneously contributing towards their restoration. Some reform of the system has become indispensable. My own idea was that district boards should be instituted for the management of all branch and bye roads, with powers to assess the requisite funds; but my proposal was not accepted, as it involved the imposition of a local rate, which, be the purpose what it may, is invariably met by strong opposition both in and out of the Council.

These roads, however, whose importance increases with the extension of cultivation, and which have been excluded from the other category by a somewhat arbitrary definition, cannot be longer neglected without serious injury and inconvenience, and I shall endeavour by some less unpopular means to compass the desired object.

Gaols, Prisoners, and Crime.

35. The comparative return of crimes and offences prosecuted and convicted before the Supreme Court in 1854 and 1855 shows a numerical increase on the preceding year, nor can this increase be entirely ascribed to greater vigilance in the detection of crime, though that undoubtedly has contributed; but it should perhaps rather be referred to the rapidly increasing immigrant population, to which class it will be observed that the principal augmentation is to be referred. Organized crime, such as Thuggee or Dacoitee, is unknown in Mauritius, but the Indian is keenly alive to injustice, and excitable when he supposes himself to be its victim. The consequence is that cases do occur occasionally of gangs of Indians, who consider themselves unjustly arrested by the police as vagrants, or hardly dealt with by an overseer, assaulting the supposed wrongdoers upon

Encl. No. 6.

MAURITIUS.

the spur of the moment, and thus bringing themselves under the somewhat comprehensive category of the Colonial Penal Code entitled Wounds and Blows, a denomination of crime which includes everything from a common assault up to a most serious attempt on life and limb, and the return shows forty-one cases of this nature, against six in 1854, which disparity of figures more than accounts for the disproportion of the totals.

36. On the other hand, there are but nine accused and six sentenced for murder and attempt at murder, against twenty-three prosecuted and seventeen condemned in 1854; and but two accused of perjury in 1855, against six in 1854. The Acting Procureur-General has seized every opportunity of prosecuting this crime, which is often but too lightly regarded by witnesses in this colony, and I trust that the examples that have been made will not prove without their due weight.

37. The gaols throughout the island are in a cleanly and satisfactory condition, and have been remarkably healthy: the labour of the prisoners is usefully employed on public works, and in maintaining in repair the roads within a specified distance of the prisons; and the escapes of prisoners when so employed, which have heretofore too often defeated the ends of justice, have very greatly diminished since their *surveillance* has been entrusted to the regular police. A better organization and supervision of convict labour have likewise rendered it more valuable.

Agriculture and Manufacture.

38. I am not aware that any new system of husbandry has been introduced, but greater attention is paid to the general cultivation of the soil and to the use of suitable manures, guano being still the chief agent, of which 25,707 tons were imported within the year. The fertilizing power of this manure in the production of sugar is said to be almost fabulous, converting, as if by magic, sterile wastes into luxuriant plantations.

39. I have already reported the appearance of an insect called the cane borer towards the end of the year, and the measures adopted with a view of checking its propagation and preventing further destruction of the cane. I am happy to say that the precautions taken by the planters have been partially successful, with the prospect of entirely subduing the invader. It is difficult to estimate the ravages committed by this insect, but I incline to think that the amount of the crop will not be seriously affected by it. Some districts have been hardly touched, and many plantations have escaped altogether.

40. Notwithstanding the higher rates of duty imposed at home upon sugar of superior qualities, and of which producers loudly, and I think justly, complain, efforts continue to be directed towards improvement in the manipulation of the plant, machinery to the value of 51,506*l.* 17*s.* 6*d.* having been imported in 1855, and in 1853 and 1854 31,310*l.* 4*s.* 6*d.* and 38,272*l.* 17*s.* respectively, consisting of vacuum and Wetzell's pans, and turbines and new cane mills put up on fresh estates, or to replace others of less power. The use of turbines, of which the supply was for a time unequal to the demand, greatly facilitates the drying process, rendering the planters less dependent on the state of the weather, and expediting the transmission of produce to market, and the realization of its value.

41. It may, I believe, be affirmed that the planters of Mauritius are behind none in availing themselves of every practical improvement, whether in the cultivation or manufacture of sugar, and that the average yield per acre of the soil, and the proportion of sugar extracted from the cane, as well as its quality, bear out the allegation.

Immigration.

42. This sheet-anchor of colonial prosperity has at length obtained a hold so firm as to secure to planters a regular supply of labour, adequate to their exigencies; while provision is made to guard against the evils apprehended from continued disproportion of the sexes. Within the year, 12,915 immigrants have been introduced from the ports of Calcutta and Madras, of whom

3,270 were females, giving a percentage of the latter much in excess of previous years. The port of Bombay has since been temporarily reopened, in order to ensure the requisite proportion of females, which the agents at the other presidencies apprehended difficulty in obtaining.

On the 31st December last there were in the island 100,541 males and 28,245 females, about 55,000 of the former being under contracts of service; wages, notwithstanding this large number, range somewhat higher (the average having been 13*s.* a month), and the demand for labourers at the immigration depôt continues unabated, more extensive cultivation calling for a corresponding increase of hands.

43. Although vagrancy still prevails to a considerable extent, and desertion from estates in a lesser degree, complaints of these evils are less frequently heard. By the change of system resorted to, upon the new organization of our police force, for their repression, absentees are more promptly detected, and either sent back to their masters or punished by the magistrate. The number of persons subjecting themselves to arrest, especially in the town of Port Louis and its vicinity, which is their favourite haunt, indicate idle and unsettled habits; but, taken as a whole, the Indian labourers may be pronounced industrious, well conducted, and docile, and the relations subsisting between them and their employers are mutually satisfactory.

* * * * *

General Remarks.

46. In 1851, the first year of my administration of this government, I ventured to predict that the natural resources of Mauritius, and the peculiar advantages she enjoys as regards her supply both of labour and of food, guaranteed her successful progress, and would place her in the van of the sugar-growing possessions of the Crown; and it is highly satisfactory to me to be enabled to record that the prediction has been ever since in uninterrupted course of fulfilment, and to resign my trust to other hands with a strong conviction that, under Providence, the material prosperity of the colony is secured.

47. Under the head of revenue and expenditure I have given a statement exhibiting the marked success attending the financial operations of the colony during the last five years. The following shows the progressive increase of its production within the same period:—

Crop of	1851	75,000 Tons.
„	1852	80,500 „
„	1853	100,000 „
„	1854	98,000 „
„	1855	102,000 „

The prices obtained varied considerably, but I believe they were on the whole remunerative, and at times highly so. Less borrowed capital is employed in the current expenditure on estates, which, with various improvements in manufacture, and more skilful husbandry, has greatly diminished the cost of production. In a more solvent proprietary, too, greater confidence is of course placed, reducing the charges on, and affording greater facilities for obtaining, advances. Discount, however, on document bills still presses heavily on the producer, the average on the year being $1\frac{3}{4}$ per cent.; but a few months back it rose so high as 14 per cent.,—ascribable, I apprehend, almost entirely to the very extraordinary rise, and equally sudden fall, of prices in the home market, and the speculations here consequent thereon.

48. The more regular and rapid intercourse with Europe which steam communication with Aden promises, will tend to remedy this and some other disadvantages arising from our distant and isolated position.

49. The new line of steamers will be opened before the close of the year, and although the contractors are not bound to call at the Seychelles Islands, it will for several months in the year be their interest to do so; from which these struggling dependencies must derive essential benefit, as they have long and seriously suffered from the want of a more certain intercourse with Mauritius and Europe.

MAURITIUS.

50. I have not yet received the Civil Commissioner's report on the condition and prospects of these islands during the past year, but my impression is, from the tone of his recent letters on this subject, that he will be able to announce some advance and amendment.

51. Our sugar crop for the past year reached 102,000 tons, and that now about being reaped promises to be still more abundant. Should the season continue as favourable as it has hitherto been, the coming crop may be estimated at not less than 120,000 tons, about double that exported in 1850; and as large tracts of cultivable land still lie unreclaimed, only awaiting the hand of the husbandman, provided nothing occur to obstruct the steady influx of immigrant labour, it is hardly possible to estimate the limit of producing power attainable within another five years.

52. Material prosperity doubtless conduces immeasurably to the contentment and happiness of a people, but the influence of moral and social advancement is even more appreciable. I lament my inability to affirm that these have advanced with equal rapidity, or to speak with similar confidence of future amelioration. There is, nevertheless, a manifest and growing improvement perceptible amongst the masses, both Creole and Indian, encouraging the expectation that the measures now being taken for the extension of education, and the more active efforts made for their spiritual enlightenment, may, slowly perhaps, but surely, rescue the rising generation, at least, from the ignorance and superstition by which their fathers have been degraded.

* * * * *

54. As this will probably be the last annual report which I shall be called upon to make, I am desirous to avail myself of the opportunity to bring under the special notice of Her Majesty's Government a subject of deep and absorbing interest to the community with whom I have been so long associated, but more particularly to the Creole portion of it. I allude to their convictions of the unfailing efficacy of quarantine restrictions for the prevention of epidemic disease. I am also anxious that my own sentiments on this much vexed question should be better understood, because in the colony my views and intentions respecting it have been misconceived and misinterpreted, producing discontent and uneasiness in the Creole mind; in fact, my proceedings have been regarded with distrust ever since my announcement, not long after I assumed the government, that I relied for the protection of the public health more on sanitary improvements than on quarantine. But soon observing the all-pervading existence of an opposite theory, and being satisfied of the inutility as well as the impolicy of contention on the point, I deemed it my duty to acquiesce in the popular conviction, and to base all measures adopted for the exclusion of disease upon this view of the question.

55. I first passed an ordinance, No. 37 of 1851, by which a General Board of Health was, amongst other things, constituted, two unofficial members, out of five, being named. To this Board was assigned the duty of framing general quarantine regulations, and of controlling their execution through the medium of the chief medical officer, one of its members, and to whom is confided the general direction and superintendence of quarantine; this power having been previously exercised by the chief medical officer alone, in either case subject to the approval of the Governor. I have never opposed the proceedings of this Board, by whom the imposition and duration of quarantine have been regulated, although on every occasion my own opinion may not have coincided with that entertained by the majority. The officers entrusted with the execution of quarantine laws have invariably been instructed to carefully enforce them. Solely in deference to the apprehensions of the people, the lazarets have been removed to Flat and Gabriel Islands, about twenty-two miles from Port Louis, involving increased expense and much additional inconvenience to trade and shipping, from the inaccessibility of these islands during the prevalence of strong winds, which are of frequent occurrence. But so widespread, and, I believe, unparalleled, is the terror inspired by epidemic cholera, that the continuance of the lazaret on the mainland was a source of constant alarm and dissatisfaction, and those islands, notwithstanding the serious disadvantages I have described, were selected as being better suited to the purpose than any others of the group in their vicinity.

56. It is hardly possible for any one who has not witnessed the scene, to conceive the state of panic and agitation into which the town of Port Louis is thrown by the appearance of a ship in the offing supposed to have cholera on board, although it is easy to imagine that, to satisfy a community so sensitive and so convinced of the efficacy of quarantine, the most rigorous restrictions and the most rigid enforcement of them are demanded.

57. Such being the state of public feeling throughout the island, aggravated besides by the severe ordeals through which it has recently passed, whose harrowing traces are too deeply engraven in all our hearts to be soon or easily effaced, I submit that the utmost feasible concession should be made to the views and even prejudices of the colonists, although it must involve a departure from those international and commercial considerations by which the laws of quarantine are influenced in other countries.

58. On all other questions I have found the Mauritians reasonable, tractable, and generous; and I therefore indulge the hope that, on calmer reflection, when not smarting under cruel bereavement, they may be induced to admit that no Government, however devoted and unremitting may be its efforts, is able to protect a country from epidemic invasion; and to seek for its appearance in other causes, divine or human, as well as in that of introduction from abroad.

59. It will be gathered from this report that I shall quit Mauritius with sanguine and well-grounded hope for her future destiny. Indeed, it is my conviction that she combines all the essential elements of progress and of promise, which are being steadily developed by the enterprise, industry, and energy displayed in the production of that staple on which the prosperity of the colony entirely depends. I have striven earnestly and honestly to discharge my duty, but I do not assume to myself any credit for the elevated and enviable position to which Mauritius has attained during the term of my government. I ascribe it chiefly to the more confiding policy adopted by Her Majesty's Government towards the colonists in dealing with Indian immigration—the life-blood of their industrial existence—but likewise to the support and encouragement accorded to me by the successive Colonial Ministers under whom I have had the honour and privilege of serving, to the cordial co-operation of an enlightened and loyal Legislature, to a growing confidence in the more effective administration of the laws, to a greater self-reliance and moderation on the part of the people themselves, and to the efficient and zealous aid which I have invariably received from many of the public servants in carrying on the duties of the government.

(Signed) J. M. HIGGINSON.

Sub-Enclosure 1. in No. 27.

Sub-Encl. 1. in No. 27.

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT of IMPORTATIONS and EXPORTATIONS of the PRINCIPAL ARTICLES of COMMERCE into and from MAURITIUS during the last Four Years.

ARTICLES.	IMPORTATIONS.				EXPORTATIONS.			
	1852.	1853.	1854.	1855.	1852.	1853.	1854.	1855.
Animals:—								
Horses - - No.	618	360	680	899	41	25	25	41
Cows and Oxen - „	2,528	2,223	6,059	7,011	107	17	—	6
Mules - - - „	1,289	1,368	1,159	3,159	156	128	6	116
Bags:—								
Vacoa - - „	—	11,570	10,000	11,500	—	2,900	1,200	2,550
Gunny - - „	120,108	204,615	396,340	111,922	47,806	4,500	11,700	38,400
Beef, Salted - - Cwt.	7,204	8,418	6,170	9,945	127	14	506	—
Beer and Ale - - Casks	552	1,041	2,386	1,826	126	—	1	42
Ditto - - Dz. Bot.	30,287	23,260	36,517	30,287	580	1,217	283	965
Carriages - - No.	94	62	103	109	2	2	1	7
Cheese - - - Cwt.	1,211	1,411	1,211	753	2	2	3	1
Coals - - - Tons	6,047	16,138	12,997	9,060	28	—	235	3,023
Clocks and Watches - No.	163	287	586	552	2	—	—	—
Coffee - - - Cwt.	4,012	6,902	6,006	10,131	16	258	3	435½
Cordage:—								
Hemp - - - „	4,565	2,136	2,532	6,047	93	169	25	3
Coir - - - „	1,754	2,452	1,463	5,495	298	233	19	470
Copper, Sheets and Nails - „	2,823	3,803	3,892	5,091	945	1,051	1,189	3,784

MAURITIUS.

Comparative Statement of Importations and Exportations, &c.—*continued.*

Articles.	Importations.				Exportations.			
	1852.	1853.	1854.	1855.	1852.	1853.	1854.	1855.
Corn and Grain :—								
Barley - - Qrs.	178	—	66	45	—	27	—	—
Beans - - „	1,398	1,119	743	1,405	4	5	94	101
Dholl - - - Cwt.	49,338	52,391	42,274	51,248	1,677	3,923	759	3,848
Gram - - „	107,740	109,530	108,635	124,553	—	929	—	774
Maize - - - „	347	256	1,295	377	—	52	—	—
Wheat - - Qrs.	15,256	21,411	33,429	18,469	1,812	1,191	704	113
Wheaten Flour - Cwt.	25,692	11,132	10,029	1,934	6,575	621	8	87
Oats - - - Qrs.	13,820	8,580	13,302	17,238	126	—	3	14
Pease - - „	—	239	79	96	—	—	—	—
Rice - - - Cwt.	661,904	890,536	709,472	774,326	6,403	7,891	22,926	61,091
Cotton Manufactures :—								
Plain - - Yards	2,156,119	3,601,328	6,618,658	3,149,284	57,814	103,735	240,562	840,442
Coloured - - „	2,668,280	4,979,442	1,782,907	2,697,917	62,901	46,438	86,004	99,514
Fish :—								
Dried or Salted - Cwt.	19,604	21,264	24,938	21,132	1,995	509	340	36
Pickled Herrings - Bar.	626	209	995	1,308	—	—	10	—
Ditto - ½ „	186	274	317	15	—	—	—	—
Mackerel - - Bar.	300	1	137	300	—	—	—	—
Pickled - - ½ „	258	905	340	—	—	—	—	—
Ditto - - ¼ „	—	568	50	—	—	—	—	—
Ditto - - Kegs	363	513	779	—	—	—	—	—
Salmon - - Bar.	25	4	119	149	—	—	—	—
Hats : —								
Beaver - - No.	501	744	475	275	—	—	—	—
Felt - - - „	3,688	7,454	7,168	3,337	—	576	—	24
Silk - - - „	2,553	6,835	5,455	1,806	86	248	—	36
Solah - - - „	376	543	108	—	—	—	—	—
Straw - - - „	74,650	85,151	104,240	72,045	18,443	4,435	806	1,100
Iron :—								
Bars and Sheets - Tons	631	533	786	470	—	1	15	4
Cast - - - Cwt.	197	209	329	149	—	20	—	—
Wrought Nails - „	2,046	2,362	3,416	3,089	20	23	14	28
Of all other Sorts - „	2,379	2,262	—	4,133	—	12	851	14
Lard - - - - „	6,425	9,396	8,913	5,708	31	102	{ Cases 1,691 }	1,679½
Leather :—								
Unwrought - - „	907	835	557	1,346	—	4	1	20
Boots and Shoes - Pairs	61,559	119,610	113,042	61,495	1,322	839	602	—
Gloves - - Dz. do.	807	1,484	1,491	567	1	—	2	—
Saddlery and Harness £	2,346	1,020	3,576	—	44	9	—	—
Of all other Sorts - £	448	1,242	827	511	88	154	318	12
Linen Manufactures :—								
Plain - - Yards	19,384	53,984	37,391	26,624	—	—	—	124
Coloured - - „	19,384	5,744	144,124	5 848	—	—	—	—
Sail Cloth - - „	104,657	83,582	96,376	195,703	20,235	540	—	9,654
Machinery and Mill Works £	13,761	31,310	87,902	51,506	—	—	145	1,467
Manure, Guano - - Tons	10,980	5,972	12,196	25,702	185	348	119	89¼
Oils :—								
Castor - - Cwt.	362	521	352	700	40	33	14	41
Cocoanut - - Gal.	15,845	37,731	46,057	77,217	20,995	2,019	5,095	14,859
Gingelly - - Cwt.	1,452	1,626	1,660	3,077	16	9	—	21
Mustard - - „	5,640	1,843	6,619	2,969	—	—	—	6
Neat's-foot - - „	55	1,843	447	569	—	—	—	—
Olive - - - Gal.	7,378	10 230	14,187	8,115	16	80	62	184
Pork, Salted - - Cwt.	3,058	6,409	2,435	2,974	44	42	—	—
Soap - - - „	9,753	9,371	9,349	10,683	121	36	142	55
Spirits :—								
Brandy - - Gal.	10,674½	12,980	21,127	17,905	—	—	18	9,705
Geneva - - „	4,925	3,891	2,768	4,367	—	—	—	1,824
Rum - - - „	265	124	176	239	*30,392	*105,242	*131,220	331,285
Tea - - - Lbs.	11,851	45,849	51,784	39,982	1,658	2,616	—	3,486
Tobacco :—								
Unmanufactured - „	639,569	707,687	675,621	798,214	112	28	1,102	—
Manufactured - „	93,413	173,324	109,159	153,348	28	302	756	—
Segars - - „	20,847	20,103	27,393	41,198	833	1,479	4,372	20,818
Snuff - - - „	223	55	701	443	12	169	4,372	—
Umbrellas :—								
Cotton - - - £	589	1,018	3,019	1,548	—	15	32	27
Silk - - - £	1,304	2,725	4,359	2,276	7	100	—	12
Wine :—								
Hogsheads - -	26,921	20,874	16,555	14,012	25	24	53	316
Half ditto - -	761	582	752	869	38	16	—	18
Quarter ditto -	247	355	194	279	1	8	—	3
Doz. Bottles - -	4,506	4,418	6,479	10,669	600	360	146	1,139
Woollen Manufactures :—								
Cloth - - - Yards	114,195	213,939	265,500	204,795	1,000	800	64	2,512
Blankets - - No.	20,296	15,808	20,422	15,187	200	125	—	—
Shawls - - „	7,246	12,792	23,204	8,030	—	4	10	—
Wood :—								
Planks and Boards. Run. Ft.	1.397,640	1,213,434	1,773,563	2,219,816	35,204	279,664	40,710	1,661
Shingles - - No.	222,500	169,400	130,000	332,630	—	—	—	—
Timber - - Cub. Ft.	2,222	8,648	3,332	62,956	—	—	—	—

* Produce of the colony.

Sub-Enclosure 2. in No. 27.

STATEMENT showing the NUMBER and TONNAGE of VESSELS entered INWARDS at PORT LOUIS, MAURITIUS, from 1842 to 1854.

YEARS.	BRITISH.		FOREIGN.		BRITISH.		FOREIGN.		BRITISH.		FOREIGN.	
	Number of Vessels.	Tonnage.	Number of Vessels.	Tonnage.	Number of Vessels.	Tonnage.	Number of Vessels.	Tonnage.	Number of Vessels.	Tonnage.	Number of Vessels.	Tonnage.
	GREAT BRITAIN.				FRANCE.				REUNION.			
1842 -	73	21,225	—	—	30	7,898	21	5,660	22	2,493	16	2,022
1843 -	59	17,837	—	—	30	8,108	8	2,334	17	1,600	11	2,612
1844 -	58	15,606	—	—	36	9,403	17	4,912	20	2,133	5	529
1845 -	70	21,745	—	—	28	7,385	27	8,151	23	1,955	10	2,699
1846 -	70	23,469	—	—	28	7,605	17	5,461	30	2,593	7	960
1847 -	65	22,859	—	—	34	8,990	17	5,343	24	1,914	16	866
1848 -	68	23,366	—	—	28	7,409	15	4,344	15	909	22	1,993
1849 -	63	21,045	—	—	28	7,441	10	3,100	20	1,087	29	2,752
1850 -	49	17,458	—	—	31	7,654	28	8,482	5	700	25	3,918
1851 -	59	19,737	—	—	20	5,834	47	15,645	5	522	30	3,251
1852 -	61	27,228	1	414	13	3,420	50	15,846	—	—	20	2,358
1853 -	78	36,615	—	—	1	300	63	19,014	3	266	26	1,062
1854 -	63	29,347	2	317	—	—	61	20,971	3	65	33	3,283
	B. C. INDIA.				AUSTRALIA.				CAPE OF GOOD HOPE.			
1842 -	54	19,293	2	607	13	2,047	—	—	25	5,172	—	—
1843 -	175	84,351	2	678	17	3,835	—	—	31	7,183	—	—
1844 -	109	47,843	—	—	14	2,617	—	—	30	6,034	—	—
1845 -	96	43,431	1	345	14	2,237	—	—	52	10,533	—	—
1846 -	114	56,822	1	356	16	3,158	—	—	52	11,415	—	—
1847 -	104	50,842	—	—	27	4,851	—	—	44	10,049	—	—
1848 -	100	53,099	—	—	21	3,892	—	—	80	17,733	—	—
1849 -	89	45,406	—	—	24	5,195	—	—	55	11,097	—	—
1850 -	89	49,268	1	395	27	5,699	—	—	63	12,560	2	482
1851 -	86	41,496	19	6,364	26	5,721	—	—	55	12,114	—	—
1852 -	99	58,831	13	4,566	26	8,116	—	—	69	15,637	—	—
1853 -	102	66,274	9	4,062	43	10,774	2	465	67	17,302	—	—
1854 -	111	67,811	25	9,486	59	13,737	1	137	45	11,922	1	231
	MADAGASCAR.				OTHER PLACES.				TOTAL.			
1842 -	115	17,546	—	—	58	14,942	11	4,082	389	90,616	50	12,371
1843 -	86	12,876	—	—	55	14,852	12	3,510	470	150,142	33	8,534
1844 -	56	7,819	—	—	59	13,512	13	4,115	382	104,967	35	9,556
1845 -	48	7,326	—	—	59	12,537	9	3,074	390	107,269	47	14,269
1846 -	10	1,350	—	—	84	17,703	7	2,225	404	124,115	32	9,002
1847 -	8	1,075	—	—	73	12,854	7	2,412	379	113,434	40	8,621
1848 -	7	847	—	—	72	14,061	10	3,538	391	121,316	47	9,875
1849 -	18	2,278	—	—	73	14,504	7	2,782	370	108,653	46	8,634
1850 -	31	5,321	11	3,346	93	15,949	15	5,046	388	114,608	82	21,669
1851 -	36	5,996	11	2,049	94	20,867	20	6,774	381	112,207	127	34,083
1852 -	20	4,070	5	816	85	18,866	20	6,738	373	136,168	109	30,738
1853 -	13	2,191	6	867	72	16,100	43	13,192	379	149,822	149	38,662
1854 -	58	10,619	5	798	80	16,932	30	10,012	419	150,439	157	45,098

MAURITIUS.

Sub-Encl. 3. in No. 27.

Sub-Enclosure 3. in No. 27.

REPORT on the EPIDEMIC of SMALLPOX in MAURITIUS, in 1855-56.

FOR two years past this colony has been constantly threatened with the introduction of smallpox, through the large immigration from Calcutta and Madras, and more especially from the latter presidency, as all the Coolie ships infected with this disease, except one, have come from thence; while, on the other hand, all those in which cholera appeared during the passage have sailed from Calcutta, and not one from either Madras or Bombay.

During these two years, smallpox has existed almost constantly in the lazarette on Cooper's Island, in the harbour of Port Louis, there being sometimes twenty or thirty cases at one time. During this period nine Coolie ships arrived from India infected with smallpox, one of which was sent to land her people at Gabriel Island; but the numerous immigrants arrived in the other ships were lodged in quarantine in the lazarette on Cooper's Island.

On these occasions the disease extended itself more or less in the lazarette, but never was introduced into the colony until the month of August last, when a Creole mason named Jules, who was employed working on the new fortifications now being erected in the immediate vicinity of the lazarette, was found to be affected with smallpox.

There were cases of this disease in the lazarette at the time, but it has been found impossible to ascertain in what manner he contracted it. He himself asserts that he had no communication with the people inside the lazarette, but it is impossible to say how much credit can be given to his statement.

As soon as I received information of this man's being affected with smallpox, I proceeded to examine him, and found that it was a case of modified smallpox,—so much modified that all the pustules had receded, except a few on the cheeks. It was, nevertheless, evidently smallpox, and I immediately communicated the fact to the Government and to the Mayor of Port Louis.

The affected man was then sent to the lazarette for sequestration, as were, afterwards, several other persons on whom the disease appeared, and who either lived in the vicinity of Jules' family or had had communication with it. Among these were the two children of Jules, one of whom had the disease very slightly, while the other died of it in the severest confluent form.

It soon became evident that it was impossible to arrest the epidemic by the sequestration of affected persons, as they carefully concealed their illness, from the fear of being sent to the lazarette, and some of them fled to the country, from the same motive.

It being evident that an epidemic was now impending, the municipality of Port Louis, without loss of time, established a hospital for smallpox at Grand River, in a building belonging to the Government, which lent it for the purpose; and in this hospital have been received all the poor of Port Louis affected with smallpox for whom hospital treatment was required. The building above mentioned having been found insufficient for the number of patients, who at one time amounted to nearly 130, the municipality hired a house in the vicinity as a supplementary hospital.

Annexed is a return of the number of persons of the different classes of the population treated in this hospital for true and modified smallpox respectively, and of the result of these cases; but it is to be observed that in general only the worst cases were sent to the hospital.

The epidemic from the first was of a mild character, a large proportion of the cases occurring being so slight that no application was made for medical assistance; nevertheless the prevalence of the disease was so great that the mortality in Port Louis became very considerable, as is seen in the annexed tables.

As usual in this disease, the epidemic is of slow progress and long continuance, its extension being dependent almost entirely on contagion or personal proximity, and being consequently very slow in comparison with that of those diseases which are propagated by atmospheric agency. In Europe, an epidemic of smallpox generally continues for twelve or thirteen months. This epidemic began, as above mentioned, in August, and increased until January, when it attained its maximum in Port Louis, and since then it has been slowly declining.

The first fatal case was in September, and the mortality during the first six months was in Port Louis as follows:—

In September	1855	1
In October	„	11
In November	„	74
In December	„	175
In January	1856	234
In February	„	98

This has been the progress of the epidemic in Port Louis, so far as it is indicated by the mortality attending it. The extent of the mortality in the whole island is exhibited in the following tables, in one of which is shown the mortality of different classes of the population in the respective districts up to the end of 1855, and in the other the same mortality from 1st January 1856 to the 10th instant.

From the returns it appears that the mortality in the country districts has been much less than might reasonably have been expected, and, in fact, has not been considerable in

any of them, excepting that of Pamplemousses, in which it amounts to 115. The vast difference between an epidemic of smallpox and one of cholera is thus strongly exemplified, as well as the great benefits conferred by vaccination.

In Port Louis the mortality has been, in proportion to population, much greater from this disease, as well as from cholera, than in the other districts. This is to be expected in a locality where, in a tropical climate, upwards of 50,000 people are congregated together, and where the sanitary condition of many parts of the town, particularly the suburbs, is unfavourable. This disease also, being propagated by contagion, is of course most prevalent where it meets with the largest number of persons collected in the smallest space.

RETURN of DEATHS from SMALLPOX in the several Districts of the Island, from the Outbreak of the Epidemic to 31st December 1855.

DISTRICTS.	General Population.				Ex-Apprentice Population.				Indian Population.			
	Adults.		Children.		Adults.		Children.		Adults.		Children.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Port Louis	32	23	19	24	50	24	13	19	46	6	3	2
Pamplemousses	2	1	1	–	6	9	–	–	3	1	–	–
Rivière du Rempart	–	–	–	–	2	2	–	1	1	–	–	–
Flacq	1	1	–	–	2	2	–	1	–	–	–	–
Grand Port	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Savanne	–	–	–	–	1	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Black River	–	–	–	–	2	1	–	–	1	–	–	–
Plaines Wilhems	–	–	–	–	4	1	–	–	1	–	–	–
Moka	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Totals	35	25	20	24	67	39	13	21	52	7	3	2

RETURN of DEATHS from SMALLPOX in the several Districts of the Island, from 1st January to 10th May 1856.

DISTRICTS.	General Population.				Ex-Apprentice Population.				Indian Population.			
	Adults.		Children.		Adults.		Children.		Adults.		Children.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Port Louis	56	25	44	46	71	31	49	35	51	9	3	6
Pamplemousses	5	4	–	4	29	8	6	5	25	4	2	–
Rivière du Rempart	–	–	–	–	6	6	3	3	4	–	–	–
Flacq	6	2	–	–	26	7	6	2	6	–	1	–
Grand Port	–	1	–	1	6	2	–	–	2	–	–	–
Savanne	–	–	–	–	2	1	–	–	1	–	–	1
Black River	1	–	1	–	10	6	1	1	6	–	–	–
Plaines Wilhems	2	–	–	–	19	3	4	2	2	–	2	2
Moka	–	4	2	–	13	4	–	2	3	1	–	1
Totals	70	36	47	51	182	68	69	50	100	14	8	10

RETURN of PATIENTS treated in the SPECIAL SMALLPOX HOSPITAL, from 8th September 1855 to 20th May 1856.

	Admitted.		Discharged.		Died.	
	True.	Modified.	True.	Modified.	True.	Modified.
Europeans and white Creoles	11	10	7	10	4	—
Coloured population	126	28	64	28	63	—
Indian immigrants	185	82	120	81	65	—
Total	322	120	191	119	132	—

(Signed) GEO. CLERIHEW, M.D.,
Chief Medical Officer.

MAURITIUS.

Sub-Encl. 4. in No. 27.

Sub-Enclosure 4. in No. 27.

REPORT on ROYAL COLLEGE for 1855.

IN submitting the Report on the Royal College for the session ending December 1855, I have first of all to express my special gratification at the zeal, ability, and success with which the professors have laboured to develop the intellectual and moral faculties of the pupils entrusted to their care. I have also to record, with pleasure, that the conduct and deportment of the scholars were generally satisfactory, not a single *serious* case of breach of discipline or of immorality having occurred throughout the year.

1. With regard to the department of *English*, which claims the first rank in importance, it has been our earnest desire to instil into the minds of pupils a still more sound and accurate knowledge than that which they have hitherto imbibed. The best interests of the colony, not less than those of the youth entrusted to our care, imperatively demand our attention to this object. The language of the Colonial Council, of the Colonial Courts, and of the Metropolitan State, ought not to be imperfectly known to the colonial youth. With a view to attain this object, we have endeavoured to bring under the notice of the students models of pure, sound, and simple style, by proposing weekly, in the higher classes, subjects for essays involving *readings* in the principal English classic prose writers. And as no one can be said to know anything of a language the rhythm of which is not familiar to his ears, all classes sufficiently advanced were obliged to repeat by heart passages from the poets; and in order to encourage correct pronunciation prizes were contended for in recitation by all the classes respectively. Besides which, in the highest class, analyses were made weekly of Shakspeare's plays, with the help of the best criticisms in the English language; and I may add that the use of a good library in the College, which has for some time been opened to the students of the higher classes, has been productive of the most excellent results, in affording facilities to diligent students in the prosecution of these and other studies. The highest class of English consisted of only ten students; the smallness of this number, however, is accounted for by the facts, that the majority of boys being designed for active employment in the colony, are withdrawn as soon as their education suffices for commercial, agricultural, or industrial purposes; the number of pupils designed for the learned professions being, of course, in a small colony like this, necessarily limited, and confined, indeed, only to such as intend to prosecute professional studies in England and France.

The essays composed by the pupils of the highest class were considered by the examiners to be highly creditable, evincing a fair acquaintance with English literature, while the language employed, though occasionally impregnated with the French idiom, showed a knowledge of the general principles of composition, and of the grammatical structure of the languages.

The junior classes in this branch are now becoming numerous, and composed, for the most part, of very young boys—a circumstance which shows plainly that the public appreciate the benefits to be derived from initiating their children, at an early age, in the pronunciation and use of English.

2. In *Classics*, the progress made by the pupils in the last session was, on the whole, as satisfactory as could be expected, under the difficulties which must for some time exist. These difficulties arise from various causes, of which the chief seems to be the shortness of time which it is possible to devote to instruction in this, consistently with affording due attention to other equally important subjects of instruction. This remark applies with peculiar force, as the position of the colony renders it absolutely necessary to maintain the two languages, English and French, in perfect efficiency, as means of communication, the consequence being that pupils are required to attend a corresponding greater number of classes daily.

The authors read in the highest class were Homer, Xenophon, Horace, and Livy.

3. The arrangement of the *French Classes* was not materially altered from that of former years. Classes which had been organized in the preceding year, of what is here technically called Version, viz., translations from English into French, were continued, and I have no doubt were of great practical use in familiarizing the students with the different idioms of expression in French and English.

In the classes of *French Literature and Rhetoric* the subjects for examination were—"A "History of Classical Literature, so far as it is connected with the History of French "Literature," and "Leclerc's Rhetoric." The answering of the pupils was considered to be generally satisfactory.

4. As to *Mathematics*. Taking into consideration the many topics of instruction which it is necessary to carry on simultaneously, to which allusion has already been made, I am warranted in stating that the instruction in this department was generally efficient. The pupils of the highest class were found qualified to enter upon the "Elements of Differential and Integral Calculus," and the result of the examination throughout all the classes proved that no exertions had been spared by each professor to advance his pupils as far as their abilities or previous good training would admit.

Classes of *Natural Philosophy* and of *Practical Geometry* were open to students who wished to avail themselves of instruction in these branches, and were well attended.

5. *Logic.* Although this subject is of a rather dry and unattractive nature to most pupils of the age of those who, generally speaking, constitute the senior classes in the College, yet, from the mental discipline it affords, independently of its intrinsic value, it is considered highly expedient to persevere in promoting a knowledge of it.

A very fair amount of progress was obtained during the session; and at the public examinations the examiner, the Lord Bishop of Mauritius, expressed himself as particularly pleased with the proficiency and intelligence shown by the pupils of the class.

6. Under the auspices and by the express desire of His Excellency the Governor, a class of *Natural History*, to be followed by one of *Agricultural Chemistry*, was formed at the commencement of the session, and is likely to be of very great service in promoting a knowledge of these two branches of service, so essentially important to the youth of this colony.

7. The most gratifying part of this report is to record the success that has attended the Royal College pupils, either in their subsequent career in Europe or in the practical business of life. Many of those who only a few years ago were *alumni* of the College are now distinguishing themselves in professional capacities in the colony. I may cite Mr. Jules Colin, who is attaining to eminence as a barrister, Messrs. E. Colin, Lolliot, Fressanges, Tourrette, Dupuy, and Beaugeard, who are in deserved repute for professional skill as physicians.

The distinctions lately gained by our pupils in England are of a high order. Instance Mr. Allas, who, after completing his studies with eminent success and distinction, received the important appointment of Midwifery Assistant to St. Bartholomew's Hospital; Mr. V. Baziere, who obtained the gold medal for midwifery, and the silver medal for pathological anatomy, in the London University; and Mr. Brunet, who obtained a prize at an examination in the department of law.

These successes achieved by our late pupils cannot but afford sincere pleasure to all well-wishers of this institution, and must be peculiarly gratifying to those societies and gentlemen who for several years have encouraged talent and industry, by causing medals and prizes to be presented to the most distinguished pupils of certain classes.

8. The distribution of prizes took place on the 13th December, the Governor presiding. The following prizes and rewards may be enumerated:—

Natural Philosophy—"George Mayer" and "Horace Beaugeard."
Natural Sciences—"Pellereau" and "Cox."
Prize given by C. C. Brownrigg, Esquire, for the best answering in Greek and Latin Grammar—"Pellereau."
Logic—"George Mayer."
Gold medal given by the "Loge de la Triple Espérance" for French Grammar—"Bonnemaison."
Gold and silver medals given by the "Royal Society of Arts and Sciences" for Natural Sciences—"Pellereau" and "Bonnemaison."
Government gold and silver medals for English—"Laconforque" and "Perrot."
Prize of superiority—"George Mayer."

On this occasion His Excellency the Governor selected two pupils (instead of one as formerly) to be sent to England to prosecute professional studies—"George Mayer" and "Horace Beaugeard." The announcement of this gave great and universal satisfaction.

Annexed is a detail of number of pupils, amount of income and expenditure, and comparison of 1855 with former years.

(Signed) JOSEPH DEAS, Rector.

Royal College, Mauritius, 21st July 1856.

MAURITIUS.

ROYAL COLLEGE, 1855.

DETAIL of INCOME and EXPENDITURE, including EXPENSES of GOVERNMENT PUPILS and SCHOLARSHIPS in ENGLAND.

	Amount of School Fees, as per Return to Internal Revenue Office.	No. of Pupils.				Expenditure.			
		Paying.	Government.	Gratuitous.	Total.	Salaries, Fixed and Temporary.	Office Contingencies.	Service, exclusive, &c.	Total.
	£ s. d.					£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
January - -	198 15 8	229	30	18	277	374 12 10	- - -	- - -	374 12 10
February - -	233 8 8	240	30	18	288	332 18 8	- - -	- - -	332 18 8
March - -	211 2 4	240	30	18	288	324 18 8	4 0 6	13 6 8	342 5 10
April - -	199 18 0	220	30	18	268	324 18 8	- - -	- - -	324 18 8
May - -	209 17 4	211	30	18	259	324 18 8	- - -	- - -	324 18 8
June - -	216 16 0	240	30	18	288	324 18 8	2 12 0	4 10 0	332 0 8
July - -	223 14 8	248	30	18	296	324 18 8	- - -	- - -	324 18 8
August - -	223 0 0	243	30	18	291	324 18 8	- - -	- - -	324 18 8
September -	223 0 4	243	30	18	291	324 18 8	3 8 0	4 10 0	332 16 8
October - -	215 9 4	244	30	18	292	324 18 8	- - -	- - -	324 18 8
November -	213 8 8	240	30	18	288	324 18 8	- - -	- - -	324 18 8
December -	218 17 0	230	30	18	278	324 18 8	7 16 2	131 17 3	464 12 1
£	2,587 8 0	Average -			284	3,956 18 2	17 6 8	154 3 11	4,128 18 9

COMPARISON with former Years.

	1852.	1853.	1854.	1855.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Amount of fees - - -	3,054 12 4	2,950 5 4	2,892 9 8	2,587 8 0
Average number of pupils - - -	276	328	296	284
Expenditure, Salaries - - -	3,451 10 2	3,691 4 0	3,662 3 2	3,956 18 2
„ Office contingencies -	24 13 4	14 4 0	26 3 7	17 16 8
„ Service, exclusive, &c. -	134 6 8	21 0 10	166 11 11	154 3 11
TOTAL - £	3,610 10 2	3,726 8 10	3,854 18 8	4,128 18 9

(Signed) JOSEPH DEAS,
Rector of the Royal College.

Sub-Encl. 5. in No. 27.

Sub-Enclosure 5. in No. 27.

Colonial Secretary's Office,
November 1855.

SIR,

1. THE Government is endeavouring to infuse more life and activity into the working of the Government Schools, to increase their general usefulness, and to make them more popular and attractive to those for whose benefit they have been established, than the present extent or regularity of attendance at those schools would seem to indicate.

2. His Excellency the Governor conceives that greater sympathy and support from the resident clergy and gentry would materially contribute to the attainment of those highly desirable objects; and it is with this view it is proposed to appoint visitors in each district, whose duty it will be to visit the schools, to examine from time to time into the progress made by the pupils and the general management of the schools, and to report, for the information of Government, any deficiencies considered by them to require amendment, or any instances of unusual merit on the part of either teachers or scholars, deserving the marked approbation of the Government.

3. His Excellency, trusting that you will readily afford him the benefit of your influence and co-operation in extending the moral and material blessings of education amongst the labouring classes in your district, is pleased to nominate you to be a visitor of the Government school situate at

I have, &c.
(Signed)
Acting Colonial Secretary.

Sub-Enclosure 6. in No. 27.

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT of CRIMES and OFFENCES Prosecuted and Convicted before the SUPREME COURT in 1854 and 1855.

	1854.										1855.									
	No. of Cases.	Classification of Prisoners.						Total Number of Prisoners.			No. of Cases.	Classification of Prisoners.						Total Number of Prisoners.		
		Ex-Apprentices.		Indians.		Others.						Ex-Apprentices.		Indians.		Others.				
		Men.	Women.	Men.	Women.	Men.	Women.	Sentenced.	Acquitted.	Total.		Men	Women.	Men.	Women.	Men.	Women.	Sentenced.	Aquitted.	Total.
Crimes and Offences against Individuals:																				
Murder and attempt at murder	10	2	–	20	–	1	–	17	6	23	6	1	–	8	–	–	–	6	3	9
Poisoning	1	–	–	2	–	–	–	2	–	2	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Manslaughter	1	–	–	1	–	–	–	1	–	1	2	–	–	2	–	–	–	2	–	2
Wounds and blows	6	–	–	5	–	1	–	5	1	6	14	3	–	34	2	2	–	34	7	41*
Rape and attempt at rape	2	2	–	–	–	–	–	1	1	2	4	2	–	2	–	–	–	4	–	4
Unnatural crimes	1	–	–	1	–	–	–	1	–	1	2	–	–	2	–	–	–	–	2	2
Abduction of minors	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Perjury	6	4	1	–	–	1	–	2	4	6	2	–	–	–	–	2	–	–	2	2
Unlawful arrest	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	4	2	–	1	–	4	–	5	2	7
Total	27	8	1	29	–	3	–	29	12	41	34	8	–	49	2	8	–	51	16	67
Crimes against Property:																				
Larceny	4	10	–	1	–	–	–	10	1	11	6	2	–	8	1	1	–	7	5	12
Cheating and embezzlement	1	1	–	–	–	–	–	–	1	1	4	1	–	–	–	1	–	1	1	2
Arson	6	–	–	6	–	–	–	–	6	6	8	1	–	10	–	1	–	5	7	12
Violation of tombs	1	3	1	–	–	–	–	1	3	4	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Forgery	2	2	–	–	–	–	–	–	2	2	1	–	–	–	–	1	–	1	–	1
Coining	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Extortion by public functionaries	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
GRAND TOTAL	41	24	2	36	–	3	–	40	25	65	53	12	–	67	3	12	–	65	29	94

* In this number is comprised a case of rebellion and assault on two police by a band of 21 Indians.

(Signed) SHOLTO JAMES DOUGLAS,
Acting Procureur and Advocate General,
&c. &c. &c.

SEYCHELLES.

SEYCHELLES.

No. 28.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor HIGGINSON to the Right Hon. H. Labouchere, M.P.

(No. 141.) Mauritius, August 14, 1856.

SIR, Received October 18, 1856.

I NOW beg leave to forward the report of the Civil Commissioner of the Seychelles on the condition and prospects of those dependencies, to which I made reference in transmitting the Blue Book of the colony for the past year, but which was not received in time to accompany that document. Enclosure 1.

2. Although there unquestionably remains much to be done to place the people of the Seychelles on the prosperous footing enjoyed by their more favoured countrymen here, it will be gratifying to Her Majesty's Government to learn from the Civil Commissioner's report, that in some important respects progress is being gradually made.

SEYCHELLES.

3. The revenue has within the last three years considerably increased, owing to certain fiscal measures introduced; and as there has been no corresponding increase of expenditure, the cost to Mauritius for the maintenance of these Islands has "pro tanto" been diminished. The expenditure amounts annually to about 4,000*l.*, whilst the revenue little exceeds the half of that amount. The Customs duties levied at Mauritius on goods consumed in the Seychelles, and with which the dependency might be fairly credited, are estimated by the Civil Commissioner at 1,635*l.*; but it will be seen by the enclosed letter from the Collector of Customs here, that there are no means of ascertaining their precise amount.

Enclosure 2.

4. The social and moral condition of the people has improved. The animosity and dissensions, which have so long divided the white and coloured inhabitants, are mitigated, and owing to the pious labours of the new Protestant Chaplain, and to the zeal and activity of the Capuchin Friars who have been sent from Rome, the conduct and observances enjoined by the Christian religion are more generally conformed to, whilst the commission of serious crime is of most rare occurrence, although, I apprehend, petty larcenies and other misdemeanors are by no means uncommon.

5. The means of education, as pointed out by the Civil Commissioner, are not yet adequately supplied, nor are its advantages, I fear, sufficiently appreciated; but there seems reason to expect that the school at Mahé, maintained by the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel, will enlarge its sphere of usefulness under the direction of the Reverend Doctor Fallet, and I propose to extend to the Seychelles the provisions of the Ordinance lately passed here, empowering the Government to make "grants in aid" for the encouragement of secular learning; and which, if availed of, are, I think, better adapted to their requirements than the system in operation here, under the direct agency of the Government.

6. In regard to material prosperity, I am of opinion, that the plantation and manipulation of cocoa nuts offer the best prospects of remunerative returns, being best suited to the capabilities of the Islands, and to the limited resources of their inhabitants, requiring less capital and labour than other branches of agricultural industry, and Mauritius presenting a ready and convenient market for their produce, and it is satisfactory to find that these plantations have considerably increased.

7. I do not, however, pretend to say, that if the interior of the Islands were rendered less inaccessible by the construction of roads, rice and other articles might not be cultivated for exportation, and the Civil Commissioner proposes, that the increase in the revenue reported by him should be applied to this purpose, to be ultimately recovered by the proceeds of a land tax. But seeing reason to anticipate objections here to such appropriation, and there to the method indicated for recovering the advances, I question the feasibility of carrying out this scheme, and I have therefore again suggested the adoption of Statute Labour in lieu thereof, on a plan (so far as circumstances will permit) similar to that which has worked so satisfactorily in Ceylon, and by which the few roads required might be gradually completed.

8. The Civil Commissioner, in conclusion, recommends that pecuniary assistance should be granted by Mauritius, as the only effectual means of extricating the Seychelles from the poverty and distress in which they have been so long plunged; but without explaining in what manner such funds are to be applied, which, however, I apprehend it would be as difficult to arrange to the mutual satisfaction of all the interests concerned as it would be hopeless to expect that the Council of Government would willingly consent to vote the money, seeing that they have repeatedly complained of the weight and hardship of the burden already imposed on them, by being charged with the cost of maintaining dependencies 1,000 miles distant, and from which the colony derives no advantage whatever.

9. We must, I conceive, rely on other measures for the regeneration of the Seychelles, to the decadence of which their remote and isolated position has so largely conduced, and this serious evil, the rapid and regular communication which will be afforded by the postal steamers about to run between Mauritius and Aden, will do much to remove.

10. It is undeniable that the existing dearth of capital forms a great impediment to improvement; but the deplorable want of steady industry, and

self-reliance, that prevails in the Seychelles, contribute largely to the same unhappy result. If, as is supposed, these Islands do really offer an opening for the investment of capital, a more intimate acquaintance with their capabilities will tend to the promotion of this important object; and may in the end lead to the substitution of solvent and enterprising proprietors, for those who possess neither the means nor the energy to overcome the obstacles to the profitable development of the resources of their estates. I do not underrate the individual sacrifices and suffering inseparable from such transfer of property, but I believe that no other equally efficacious remedy will be found to ameliorate the general condition of this impoverished and helpless community.

I have, &c.

(Signed) J. M. HIGGINSON.

The Right Hon. H. Labouchere,
&c. &c. &c.

Enclosure 1. in No. 28.

Encl. 1. in No. 28.

SIR, Port Louis, July 21, 1856.

I HAVE the honour to forward the report upon the condition and prospects of the Seychelles Islands, which your Excellency wishes should accompany the annual Blue Book.

I have already reported to your Excellency upon the comparative great increase to the revenue derived by extending to those Islands the following Ordinances:—No. 18 of 1841 on Fisheries; 27 of 1845 and 49 of 1848 on Licences; 26 and 27 of 1853 on Distilleries, the first three by proclamation, dated 5th June 1852, but which can hardly be said to have come into force till the 1st January 1853.

The total revenue collected by me for the years 1853, 1854, and 1855 exceeds that collected in the three previous by 2,538*l.* 13*s.* 9½*d.*, or an average annual increase of 846*l.* 4*s.* 5*d.*, the amount of the former being 6,495*l.* 11*s.* 6*d.*, and the latter 3,955*l.* 17*s.* 8¾*d.* It is, however, to be lamented that some means cannot be devised for still further increasing the revenue of the Islands, which in their present impoverished condition seems to me impossible. I cannot, however, concur in the general supposition, that this dependency is a great expense to the colony, as it must be borne in mind that, having no direct trade with other countries, the whole of its export and import duties are paid at Mauritius, and which must amount to a very considerable sum annually. I cannot for want of official documents state exactly the actual cost of Government for the salaries of the public establishments at Seychelles, but I imagine I am not far wrong in estimating it at 3,800*l.* a year, to meet which the average revenue for the last three years has been 2,164*l.* 17*s.* 2*d.*, leaving a deficit of 1,635*l.* 2*s.* 10*d.*, which I imagine is more than covered by Custom dues.

I am happy to report that there exists little, I may say no, serious crime in the dependency, and that the strong inclination for litigation which existed amongst the inhabitants has perceptibly diminished, and there now exists a very far better feeling between the white and the coloured population.

On the subject of education I would request most respectfully to call your Excellency's attention.

Your Excellency is aware there has existed for some years back a boy and girls' school at Victoria Town, kept up at the sole expense of the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel, but which is but thinly attended, the present number of scholars being altogether about 60, and nearly the whole of these are children of the ex-apprentices, and of so young an age as not to be capable of gaining much advantage, their parents taking them away so soon as they are strong enough to do a little work. However, through the exertions of the new Minister, the Reverend Dr. Fallet, under whose entire management I have placed them, and who, from his great practical knowledge, has already wrought some beneficial changes in the manner of conducting them, I hope for great improvement, but your Excellency will perceive that this is but a very inadequate means for educating the whole of the children of these Islands. This is much to be regretted, and especially that of the total want of means for instructing the children of the better classes, who are now grown or growing up in ignorance of the very first rudiments. Mr Collie, a Scotchman and a resident for many years at Seychelles, kept a school for a long time, and it is to him principally those who have received any instruction owe their education, and it is from these scholars the Government have been hitherto able most efficiently to fill up the situations of clerk for the Customs and Internal Revenue Department, but he was obliged to give it up, the parents being no longer able to pay for the children's education.

I have much gratification in reporting to your Excellency that some improvement has taken place in the moral condition of the population since the arrival of the Rev. Dr. Fallet; very many christenings and marriages have taken place, many of the latter being couples who had lived for years in open adultery.

The Capuchin Friars are likewise exerting themselves, and I trust are doing good. It is their intention, as your Excellency is aware, to introduce Sisters of Charity into the

SEYCHELLES.

dependency, under your Excellency's sanction, and it is to be hoped with beneficial results.

Unhappily there exists no Protestant church in the dependency, and the service is performed in a private dwelling hired for the purpose, at an annual rent of 48*l.* A subscription was raised by my predecessor, Mr. Keate, for building a church, who caused a chapel to be built on the Island of Praslin, 23 miles from Mahé, and which has never been consecrated to the present day; but whether the expense of doing this was defrayed by him I am not prepared to say. This want is much to be regretted, more especially as the Roman Catholic population have purchased a property in Victoria Town, and built a chapel and a residence for their Priest, besides establishing chapels in various parts of the Island of Mahé, and on one of the smaller Islands.

On the subject of agriculture your Excellency will be gratified to learn that, during the last three years, the proprietors have considerably extended their cocoa-nut plantations; one gentleman alone has planted 50,000, which in about three years more ought to bring in a considerable income; but this brings me to the subject of devising the best method to be adopted for encouraging agriculture, and the putting down of vagrancy, a point which has already been so ably reported upon by my predecessor, Mr. Keate. His highly interesting report I have studied attentively, and regret it has been found impracticable to carry out the valuable suggestions it contains, and which has chiefly arisen from the want of capital; for after the Imperial Government, at the earnest petition of the proprietors, sanctioned the introduction of immigrants, not one of them could avail themselves of it.

Want of labour is the main cause of the misery that exists, and to supply this I have lent my most earnest attention. The population of Seychelles is about the same that it was thirty years ago, when the Islands were in prosperous condition, so that it would appear there are hands enough if they would but work, which they wont, so long as that ruinous system exists of proprietors allowing the ex-apprentices to squat on their lands, on the promise of giving them half their labour, that is to say, working one week for the landowner and one for themselves.

Nearly all these squatters live in the interior some distance from the shore (and from their masters' houses, which are all close to the sea), on land which, from local and other causes, is now not cultivated, these squatters barely growing sufficient manioc and sweet potatoes for their own consumption.

Last year I made excursions on foot over nearly every part of the Island of Mahé, and I was struck by the quantity of fine land lying waste, which had evidently from its appearance been cultivated in the time of slavery; there are likewise forests of excellent timber called "Capucin," which I am told is one of the most durable kinds known. Nearly the whole of these belong to Government, and are falling daily and rotting on the ground for want of means of transport; this directed my attention to the want of roads, which I am of opinion could be made at no very great expense.

Roads and navigable rivers are the arteries without one or other of which no country can flourish, and it will be for your Excellency to determine whether the results I anticipate are equivalent to the necessary outlay, if a law was passed obliging every male inhabitant between a certain age, say 15 and 60, to furnish so many days' labour in the year; all that would be necessary could be, I should say, finished in four years at a cost for overseers and implements of 4,000*l.*, which would be 153*l.* 15*s.* 6½*d.* more than the annual average accrued by the additional taxation now established. At the end of this period a land tax might be levied to recover the expenses, which, if the present proprietors were unwilling to pay, they could easily dispose of that part of the land at least which is now lying idle to Mauritian capitalists, to whom the richness of the soil would by that time be exposed, but which they are at present ignorant of, owing to, I might almost say, the impracticability of access.

Sufficient rice alone of the best quality, far superior to that now brought from India, and fetching a higher price in the market, might be grown in Mahè for the consumption of half the Indian population of Mauritius. The great advantage I anticipate in advocating the measure is the putting into cultivation waste land which at present would be ruin for any one to attempt for want of labour and carriage. Squatters who are now hid in the jungles would be hunted up, and by the levying of a land tax made to work; horses and mules, which thrive admirably, but are now useless, might be introduced, and would materially assist the manual labour, and render the introduction of immigrants unnecessary.

I have thought over attentively the condition these Islands have been in for so many years, and I have come to the conclusion they can never rise and cease to be a burden to the colony without pecuniary assistance, which ought to be granted, now that the colony is in so flourishing a state.

Should your Excellency deem these remarks worthy of notice, I shall endeavour to furnish any further information your Excellency may require, and give my best attention to any instructions your Excelleney may honour me with.

I have, &c.

(Signed) GEO. WADE,
Civil Commissioner.

STATEMENT of EXPENDITURE annually incurred on account of Seychelles during the last Three Years.

	1853.			1854.			1855.		
ESTABLISHMENTS: Salaries.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Civil commissioner	600	0	0	600	0	0	600	0	0
Customs clerk	96	0	0	96	0	0	96	0	0
Magistrate	500	0	0	500	0	0	500	0	0
Clerk	200	0	0	200	0	0	200	0	0
Messenger	20	0	0	20	0	0	20	0	0
Chaplain	300	0	0	300	0	0	300	0	0
Health officer	150	0	0	150	0	0	250	0	0
Dispenser	-	-	-	-	-	-	36	0	0
Police inspector	200	0	0	200	0	0	200	0	0
Serjeant major	72	0	0	72	0	0	72	0	0
Serjeants, two at 60*l.* each	120	0	0	120	0	0	120	0	0
Constables, (1st class, 5 at 48*l.* each; 2d class, 8 at 43*l.* 4*s.* each; 3d class, 5 at 33*l.* 12*s.* each)	753	12	0	753	12	0	753	12	0
Gaoler	33	12	0	33	12	0	33	12	0
Assistant gaoler	28	16	0	28	16	0	28	16	0
Inspector of distilleries, 3, 1 at 96*l.* and 2 at 72*l.* each	240	0	0	240	0	0	240	0	0
ALLOWANCES:									
Civil commissioner for office establishment	168	0	0	168	0	0	168	0	0
" " house rent	144	0	0	-	-	-	-	-	-
" " boat	120	0	0	120	0	0	120	0	0
" " stationery	24	0	0	24	0	0	24	0	0
Police inspector for stationery	2	0	0	2	0	0	2	0	0
Vaccinator 4*s.* for each vaccination	50	0	0	50	0	0	50	0	0
CONTINGENCIES:									
Stationery to magistrate	20	0	0	20	0	0	20	0	0
Furniture, petty supplies, &c.	-	-	-	-	-	-	20	0	0
Total establishment	3,842	0	0	3,698	0	0	3,854	0	0
SERVICE, EXCLUSIVE OF ESTABLISHMENT: Administration of Justice.									
Compensation to medical men, witnesses, &c.	15	15	0	26	4	0	25	12	9
Hospitals	17	3	8	9	0	0	18	0	0
Police and gaols	152	8	9	257	0	9	99	0	0
Rent	136	0	0	92	0	0	-	-	-
Transport	95	0	0	256	17	4	60	18	0
WORK AND BUILDINGS:									
Residence of Civil Commissioner (repairs)	771	12	9	-	-	-	-	-	-
Supplies for repairs to Government buildings	9	2	0	-	-	-	-	-	-
Repairs to sea wall	12	0	0	15	4	0	-	-	-
Purchase of M. Delorie's property	-	-	-	900	0	0	-	-	-
Repairing Seychelles prisons	-	-	-	-	-	-	32	19	2
Total work and buildings	792	14	9	915	4	0	32	19	2
ROADS, STREETS, AND BRIDGES:									
Roads to Port Victoria	97	18	2	-	-	-	-	-	-
Seychelles Road	-	-	-	42	2	0	-	-	-
Seychelles bridge from Royal Street to Civil Commissioner's residence	-	-	-	47	0	0	-	-	-
Total roads, streets, &c.	97	18	2	89	2	0	-	-	-
MISCELLANEOUS:									
Flags &c.	1	9	8	-	-	-	-	-	-
GRAND TOTAL	5,150	10	0	5,343	8	7	4,090	9	11

4th August 1856.

(Signed) W. R. R. KERR,
Auditor General.

SEYCHELLES.

MEMO.

SUMS estimated for in the Budget but which I believe have not been paid.

	£	s.	d.
Chaplain absent for two years, allowed half salary for one, 450*l.*, pay of lay teacher deducted from this amount of that period, 144*l.*	360	0	0
Police Inspector's salary for 1853, and half of 1854, at 120*l.* per annum	120	0	0
Do. half of 1854 and the whole of 1855, at 150*l.* per annum	75	0	0
House rent for one month, 10*l.* 12*s.*	133	8	0
No children vaccinated in 1853, nor about for a month in 1855, there being no doctor	66	0	0
Doctor's half salary for 1853	75	0	0
Do. whole salary for four months. 1855	83	6	8
No rent paid for gaol in 1853–54 the Delories property being bought	228	0	0
	1,086	14	8

There likewise are other sums noted on the other side of this which I do not consider ought to be placed under the head of annual expenses, (viz.) 778*l.* 14*s.* 9*d.* for repair of Commissioner's residence and 900*l.* for purchase of Delories property.

The under-mentioned sums refer to work performed previous to my arrival in Seychelles, *i. e.* in 1852:—

	£	s.	d.
Repair of sea walls	27	4	0
Roads of Port Victoria	97	18	0
Seychelles Road	42	2	0
Bridge from Royal Street to Commissioner's residence	47	0	0
	214	4	0

(Signed) GEO. WADE,
Civil Commissioner.

Enclosure 2. in No. 28.

(No. 59.)

Custom House, Port Louis, Mauritius,
August 19, 1856.

SIR,

WITH reference to your letter of the 29th ultimo, requesting me to state the amount of import duties which I conceive has been collected here on goods shipped during the last three years for Seychelles, and what amount of export duty has been received in the same period on the produce of Seychelles exported from this port, I beg you to inform his Excellency the Governor that as the trade between Port Louis and the dependencies of Mauritius is deemed a coasting trade, goods sent from hence to Seychelles are shipped by "Coast Sufferance," a document which contains an account of the number of packages and a description of the goods, so far as the same can be ascertained, but no declaration of the quantity and value of the articles is required. It is therefore quite out of my power to form any idea as to what amount of duty was received on such goods at the time of their importation here.

2. I find that two parcels of sugar, the produce of Seychelles, were brought to this port during the last three years; one of these parcels, consisting of 230 bags, was exported per "Cressida" for Cork on the 25th November 1853, and export duty amounting to 4*l.* 4*s.* 5*d.* levied thereon; the other parcel, composed of 451 bags, if exported, must have been included in an outward entry along with some sugar the produce of the Island, as a separate entry for it cannot be found.

I have &c.,
(Signed) E. CARDEW,
Collector.

The Honourable
The Acting Colonial Secretary.

PART III.

AFRICAN SETTLEMENTS AND ST. HELENA.

SIERRA LEONE.

PART III.—AFRICAN SETTLEMENTS.

SIERRA LEONE.

No. 29.

Copy of a DESPATCH from Governor Hill to the Right Honourable H. Labouchere, M.P.

(No. 107.)

Government House,
Sierra Leone, April 18, 1856.
(Received May 31, 1856.)

Sir,

I have the honour to forward the duplicate of the Blue Book for the year 1855, prepared by the Colonial Secretary.

I have, &c.
(Signed) STEPHEN J. HILL,
Governor.

The Right Hon. H. Labouchere,
&c. &c. &c.

Explanatory Statement.

Taxes and Duties.

The taxes and duties are the same as in the previous year, and on this subject, as well as with respect to fees, so much has already been reported by the late Acting Governor as to render it unnecessary for me to offer any observations thereon.

Revenue.

There has not been any material difference in the gross amount of revenue for 1855, as compared with the previous year.

The increase has been in tonnage dues 675*l.* 0*s.* 9*d.*, in light dues 43*l.* 14*s.* 0*d.*, in auction duties 30*l.* 13*s.* 10*d.*, in land sales 70*l.* 12*s.* 0*d.*, in licences on spirits retailed 287*l.* 0*s.* 4*d.*, in auctioneers' licences 50*l.*, in pilots' licences 2*l.*, in pew rents 10*l.* 15*s.* 0*d.*, in the house and land tax 38*l.* 0*s.* 9*d.*, in forfeitures 4*l.* 13*s.* 6*d.*, in fees carried to public account 3*l.* 11*s.* 0*d.* The revenue also exhibits an apparent further increase, in consequence of the change which has taken place with the respect to the mode of remunerating the Harbour-master, that officer receiving a fixed salary of 250*l.* in lieu of fees, and the fees derived from his office, amounting during the past year to 293*l.* 10*s.* 0*d.*, being carried to the public account under a separate head. The new hospital arrangement has also produced during the past year an income of 1,205*l.* 11*s.* 2*d.* These various sources of local revenue together give an increase of 2,715*l.* 2*s.* 4*d.* over the amount derived from the same sources during the previous year.

On the other hand, there has been a decrease in the amount of import duties of 2,808*l.* 2*s.* 11*d.*, in boat licences 55*l.*, in rents 125*l.* 16*s.* 1½*d.*, in the horse and carriage tax 22*l.*, in fees from the police and sessional courts 103*l.* 7*s.* 8*d.*, in the sale of government property 163*l.* 10*s.* 0*d.*, in various miscellaneous receipts 202*l.* 18*s.* 7*d.*, making a total of 3,480*l.* 15*s.* 4*d.*

Expenditure.

The colonial funds having been made chargeable with the payment of certain salaries previously borne on the Parliamentary Grant, there has been an increase in the expenditure under the head of fixed salaries, amounting to 1,929*l.* 15*s.* 8*d.*; the other items on which increased expenditure has been incurred during the year 1855 are, allowances 82*l.* 16*s.* 8*d.*, contingencies 96*l.* 11*s.* 10½*d.*, administration of justice 35*l.* 1*s.* 1*d.*, sundry special services 264*l.* 1*s.* 6½*d.*, hospitals 482*l.* 10*s.* 6*d.*, works and buildings 2,090*l.* 7*s.* 2½*d.*, making a total of 4,981*l.* 4*s.* 6*d.*

The comparative statement also exhibits a reduction in provisional and temporary salaries of 140*l.* 2*s.* 0*d.*, in pensions 2*l.* 7*s.* 6*d.*, in the department of

police and gaols 511*l.* 3*s.* 10*d.*, in the conveyance of mails 2*l.* 3*s.* 6*d.*, in roads 25*l.* 6*s.* 0*d.*, in miscellaneous services 433*l.* 4*s.* 4*d.*, in payment of aborigines 391*l.* 0*s.* 1*d.*, in drawbacks and refund of duties 67*l.* 1*s.* 9*d.*, in remittances to the Agent General 368*l.* 18*s.* 8*d.*, making a total of 1,041*l.* 7*s.* 8*d.*

Public Debt.

This colony is happily not burdened with any public debt. There are several sums held in deposit, which are, however, entered under this head at pages 56 and 57 of the Blue Book. These amount in the aggregate to 1,962*l.* 15*s.* 8*d.*, a considerable portion of which having been held without any claimant for upwards of twenty years, justifies the conclusion that it will never be called for. Several other sums, not held for so long a time, stand in the names of parties to whom there are not any known representatives.

Public Works.

The total expenditure on public works during the year amounts to 4,019*l.* 13*s.* 7*d.*, in which is included the partial erection of a schoolroom, the building of solitary cells in the gaol yard, considerable progress in the erection and repairs of the wharf, the repairs of the public buildings generally, and draining the grass fields; the importance of this last-mentioned work cannot be over estimated in a sanitary point of view.

Legislation.

The two most important enactments during the year have been the ordinance for the instruction and registration of alien children, and the ordinance for amending the laws with respect to keeping in repair the roads and highways of the colony. The others have been nearly of an ordinary and routine character.

Miscellaneous.

Numerical Returns.

This Return exhibits an aggregate of 14,700 persons in a population of less than 45,000 liable to the payment of direct taxes, and it may be safely affirmed that the success which has attended the collection of the house and land tax, yielding an annual revenue of 3,000*l.* chiefly derived from persons of the humbler classes, is to be attributed to the respect for, and cheerful submission to law, which are the characteristics of this people. The paupers, who number throughout the colony 710, consist chiefly of old and worn out liberated Africans.

Ecclesiastical.

There can be no doubt that the Lord Bishop, as head of the clergy, and the missionaries of the Church of England, are exercising a great moral influence over the aboriginal tribes of Africa settled in this colony; neither are the Wesleyan missionaries behind-hand in this work. The Lord Bishop, as Colonial Chaplain, assisted by the Rev. Francis Pocock, officiates in the cathedral and parish church of St. George, which is attended chiefly by the European inhabitants. The converted natives, generally speaking, are in communion with one or other of the missionary establishments. There are several Independent congregations presided over by native ministers, of whose zeal, although it may not be always according to knowledge, there can be no doubt.

It is pleasing to observe the evidences of a catholic Christianity which pervades this community; ministers of the Church and Wesleyan bodies are seen mingling together in friendly harmony, and without losing their distinctiveness they would seem to enjoy the gratification of combining for the spread of truth, and in the promotion of benevolent objects.

Education.

It will be seen by the returns of schools that they are chiefly supported by the friends of the Church and Wesleyan missionary societies; they are, with the exception of the establishment at Fourah Bay, King Tom's, and the grammar school in Regent Square, of an elementary character. The local government

SIERRA LEONE.

supports one school in Freetown of a very humble description, and at a cost of about fifty pounds per annum.

Imports.

The imports during the past year have reached the aggregate amount of 114,910*l.*, being 4,000*l.* in advance of the previous year; this excess of imports is not inconsistent with the fact of a comparatively reduced revenue from imports, inasmuch as there are several articles which, under the new tariff, are liable to a specific duty without reference to value. It is worthy of remark that notwithstanding the various changes in the rate of duties, the imports have, during the past twenty years, undergone little or no change. This is to be attributed to the fact of the resident merchants "who have increased of late years," availing themselves of the advantages of the bonding warehouses, and a system of transhipment for the purpose of carrying on a trade beyond the limits of the colony, and from which the revenue derives no aid whatever.

Exports.

The exports during the past year reached the large amount of 170,547*l.*, being 16,000*l.* in advance of the previous year. The chief articles of African produce exported have been as follows:—

	1855.		1854.
Palm oil	£46,174	against	£33,234
Ground nuts	27,617	„	8,144
Timber	25,872	„	29,646
Hides	12,101	„	23,798
Camwood	7,330	„	8,441
Gold	6,627	„	8,515
Gum copal	6,433	„	5,837
Benni seed	5,758	„	1,770
Ginger	5,136	„	10,667
Cola nuts	3,493	„	1,056
Ivory	1,486	„	1,485
Vegetable fibres	8	„	5*s.*

Making a total of 157,985*l.* of the produce of the western coast of Africa during the year 1855, against 132,543*l.* 5*s.* in the previous year. The remainder is made up of British merchandise exported to places along the coast, chiefly foreign possessions under the dominion of native kings and chiefs.

It will be seen that palm oil stands at the head of the list, and that ground nuts occupy a very important place in the trade of Africa, and this becomes an interesting fact when it is considered that the ground nut trade is of very recent origin.

The colony is indebted for its export trade to the neighbouring settlements, ginger being the only article of which any quantity is obtained in the settlement itself; and it may be added that the large consumption of beef makes hides available to some extent as an item of local export.

Palm oil, timber, camwood, gum copal, ginger, gold, cola nuts, and vegetable fibres are for the most part consigned to mercantile houses in Great Britain; hides and ivory are chiefly sent to the United States of America; ground nuts and benni seeds to France.

Conclusion.

I venture to express my opinion that the condition of the colony warrants a belief in a satisfactory progress.

The new wharf which is now completed affords great accommodation to the merchants as well as the vessels of war; the trading canoes arriving from the neighbouring rivers average daily fifty in number; and I have no doubt when the new market house is erected, in which accommodation can be afforded to the native traders at a comparatively small expense, the trade of the colony will in this respect increase considerably.

If it were possible to reduce the import duties without injury to the revenue I am satisfied the result would be most beneficial, and Freetown probably become the entrepôt for the whole of the trade now carried on with the main

land, through means of the bonded warehouse system and transhipments, as the merchant would doubtless prefer the security of his own stores in a British colony to the risk he now runs of being plundered in the interior and without the jurisdiction of the Government; I am fully aware of the difficulty attending any change in so important a matter, but I have given the subject most serious attention, and I do not despair of being enabled ere long to submit for consideration a scheme embracing a reduction in the import duties without seriously affecting the Customs revenue.

I annex the Annual Report of the Colonial Surgeon, together with a comparative hospital return, and the yearly return of sick treated in the colonial hospital from 1st April 1855 to 31st March 1856.

(Signed) STEPHEN J. HILL,
Governor.

Enclosure 1 in No. 29.

Encl. 1 in No. 29.

ANNUAL REPORT of Sick and Wounded treated in the COLONIAL HOSPITAL, FREETOWN, SIERRA LEONE, from 1st April 1855 to 31st March 1856.

The total number of sick of all classes treated in this hospital "during the period embraced by this Return" is 543; 440 of this number were admitted, and the other 103 remained from last year. Of the number admitted 172 were British and foreign seamen, and the remaining portion liberated Africans and colonial poor. 398 were discharged cured, 70 died, and 75 remain under further treatment.

Of the number of deaths above enumerated 18 were only in hospital for a very short time, varying from two to thirty-six hours, and were brought in dying, and can scarcely be considered as under treatment at all. Several of these men I regret to add were merchant seamen brought to hospital from the rivers, upon some of whom it was deemed necessary to hold inquests, owing to the neglected manner they were sent in from their ships in the different rivers; the very debilitated state they were in rendering all treatment ineffective. Of the other cases the majority were found dying of want in the streets, and brought in that state to the hospital.

Taking into consideration the very many difficulties I had to encounter in forming and organising such an institution in a colony like this, and on a comparison with the results of the last five years as shown by the accompanying Return taken from the old books, I feel perfectly satisfied that the improvement on the former system is quite apparent, as a proper system of dietary is equally necessary as medicine for the treatment of disease. By placing the hospital on a proper scale, a very great boon has been afforded to a class of individuals long neglected in this colony. I allude to the merchant sailors; and the greatest proof I can offer of what I state is, that since I opened the ward for them they have taken full advantage of the comforts afforded therein, as this year there has been the large number of 172 sailors treated in the hospital.

The number of extern patients to whom medical advice and medicines have been afforded gratis exceeds 1,000. The establishing this system of out-door medical relief has been of the greatest service to these poor creatures, and has been a very trifling expense to the Government.

There have been over 800 persons successfully vaccinated during the year through the schools and districts. The very great antipathy the natives have to their children being vaccinated is gradually giving way, and will, I have little doubt, in a short time disappear altogether.

ROBT. BRADSHAW,
Colonial Surgeon.

Enclosure 2. in No. 29.

Encl. 2. in No. 29.

COMPARATIVE RETURN of the Total Number of Sick treated in the Colonial Hospital of all Classes from 1851–2 to 1855–6.

Years.	Remained.	Admitted.	Total Treated.	Discharged.	Died.	Remained.	Proportion of Deaths to Diseases.	Per-centage.	Remarks.
1851–52	111	633	744	445	197	102	1 to 3·77	26 per cent.	
1852–53	102	415	517	289	117	111	1 to 4·42	22 „ „	
1853–54	111	322	433	254	113	66	1 to 3·83	26 „ „	
1854–55	66	300	366	182	81	103	1 to 4·52	22 „ „	
1855–56	103	440	543	398	70	75	1 to 7·77	13½ „ „	

ROBT. BRADSHAW,
Colonial Surgeon.

GAMBIA.

GAMBIA.

No. 30.

No. 30.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor O'CONNOR to the Right Honourable H. LABOUCHERE, M.P.

Civil, No. 20.

(Civil, No. 20.)

Government House, Bathurst, Gambia, April 7, 1856.

SIR,

(Received May 5, 1856.)

I DO myself the honour to transmit herewith the Blue Book of this colony for the year 1855.

2. Notwithstanding the unexpected and unwarrantable insurrection on the part of the Mahometans of Combo in July and August last, and the consequent check to cultivation and to commerce, the revenue has not decreased to the extent I at one time feared would be the case.

Revenue.

3. The revenue for 1854 amounted to 16,103*l.* 6*s.*, while that for 1855 reached 15,325*l.* 17*s.* 4*d.*, a decrease of only 750*l.* 8*s.* 8*d.* A large portion of the seeming general decrease was a grant for the "Dover" of 1,630*l.* 8*s.* 8*d.* for the year 1853, not drawn until 1854.

Expenditure.

4. The expenditure for the year 1854 was 18,686*l.* 1*s.* 1*d.*; that for 1855, 15,270*l.* 16*s.* 7*d.*; an actual decrease of 3,415*l.* 4*s.* 6*d.* True, fewer public works were carried on, and a rigid rule of economical expenditure was adopted, but a popular and important building was completed,—the public market.

Public Market.

5. This profitable establishment, commenced during May 1854, cost, when completed and ready for occupation, in June 1855, the sum of 2,700*l.* 15*s.* The monthly return of rent has averaged 36*l.* 6*s.* 8*d.*, or an annual income of 436*l.* Deducting a clerk at an increased salary of 60*l.* per annum from the 1st of last January, two police constables at 42*l.* 14*s.* per annum from the 1st of April, and a labourer at 10*l.* per annum, a net income of 323*l.* 6*s.* remains, or nearly twelve per cent. interest on the whole expenditure.

6. So anxious are the petty traders, hucksters, and hawkers to obtain accommodation in the market house, that a large number cannot have stalls, and are compelled to sit under adjacent trees. An additional wing would hardly suffice for the extra number of applicants.

Commerce.

7. I extended my commercial expeditions this year to various portions of the coast seldom, if ever, visited by European governors.

8. I proceeded in the "Dover" up the larger rivers "Jeba," "Nunez," "Cazamanza," through the Bijonga Islands, touching at "Bissao," "Bulama," "Kanabec," "Sorcerer's Island," "Isles de Los," "Matacong," "Cantaber," "Zechinchor," "Joal;" and in February made my annual tour up the River Gambia, beyond the "Falls of Barraconda."

Treaties.

9. Two treaties of consequence to all civilized nations frequenting the Western Coast of Africa have been effected by me; one with the king and chiefs of Kanabec, a ruthless and savage race, who hitherto rejected all friendly reciprocity with the French and other powers.

10. I landed and remained for two days at Kanabec, and entered into a convention with the natives to protect vessels and mariners wrecked or driven in distress to this island, instead of plundering the cargoes, and, in many instances, perpetrating fearful atrocities on the crews.

11. The other treaty was with Bucarie Chillas, king of Boor Sin, the head of the Nomadic tribes known to Humboldt as "Tibboos" or "Tuarics," having no fixed habitations, living on or near the several oases of the great Sahara, systematically robbing all persons within their reach, which they consider a legitimate and honourable vocation.

12. Bucarie Chillas and his people gave me a most friendly reception at Joal, and agreed to a commercial convention, extending protection to all traders bearing my seal, and to all vessels and mariners wrecked on the shores of Boor Sin, a most dangerous part of the coast leading from Goree southward, and lined with shoals and breakers. Hitherto the natives of Boor Sin deemed vessels in distress as lawful prizes, plundering the cargoes and carrying the crews to the slave markets in the interior.

The Combo Insurrection.

13. I entered in former despatches so fully into the insurrection in Combo, that to recapitulate the several details would prove only a tedious narrative.

14. It was one of those sudden events which occur in demi-civilized countries no human foresight can anticipate or almost prevent.

15. A number of fanatics were roused into rebellion by Mahometan missionaries, and, regardless of all treaties or ties with their old and firm British friends, they kindled the flame of war, spreading anarchy and devastation throughout the English territory and their own possessions.

16. However, aided by our gallant French allies, who came promptly and cheerfully from Goree and Senegal, the enemy received a wholesome chastisement.

17. Their principal town, Sabbagee, was stormed and destroyed; and although the campaign was conducted and terminated not without some loss of life on our side, it proved very inconsiderable with that inflicted upon the enemy.

Military Defences.

18. The military defences of this colony are of vital importance to its future security and progressive prosperity.

19. I do not mean extensive expensive barrack buildings and fortifications, but such as will ensure safety of person and property to the population of Bathurst, and to the settlers in the vicinity of Cape Saint Mary's and the recently acquired district in Combo.

Cape Saint Mary's.

20. Cape Saint Mary's is in every way the most desirable position for the chief military post.

21. The climate is cool and salubrious; the country free from swamps, clear of jungle, the soil fertile; and the Cape, elevated some seventy feet above the level of the sea, lies open to the full fresh breeze of the Atlantic Ocean.

22. A barrack is required for two complete companies, a small number of black artillerymen, and quarters for the regulated complement of officers.

23. The presence of such a body of troops, aided by a few guns of mountain artillery, would create confidence among the adjacent settlers, and induce many persons to leave the sandy, swampy island of Saint Mary for the fertile plains of the Cape.

24. The new and judicious alteration in garrisoning Gambia and Sierra Leone with detachments from one West India regiment, instead of with companies from each of the three corps, will render it easy to relieve the two companies stationed at the Cape by the company from Bathurst and the company from M'Carthy's Island the second year, to be relieved in their turn the third year, returning to the Cape the fourth year.

25. This simple and inexpensive arrangement will enable all the officers and men to pass two years of their tour of duty in Western Africa at the healthiest station in Gambia.

GAMBIA.

Bathurst.

26. The soldiers' barrack at Bathurst has long engaged my anxious attention.

27. On a careful survey of the building by the acting clerk of works it was found in a dangerous condition.

28. A portion of the lower wall and pillars supporting the piazza having almost crumbled away, the beams and roof eaten by the white ants, and totally unfit to encounter the violence of another tornado season.

29. Prompt and active measures were adopted to provide shelter for the troops in garrison before the rains commenced, and for the drafts daily expected from the West Indies to increase the forces.

30. The walls were arched and strengthened, the pillars and piazzas rebuilt all round, a new roof constructed, accommodation afforded for 190 men in three spacious, well-ventilated flats, and separate quarters for sixteen non-commissioned officers, at an outlay of not one third a new barrack would cost, coupled with a reduction of 117*l.* per annum for low, miserable, detached, hired buildings in various parts of the town.

31. The plan, detail, work, and internal arrangements of the barrack reflect great credit on Mr. John J. Staples Finden, acting clerk of works and colonial engineer.

Military Settlers.

32. I have always strongly advocated the locating of military pensioners, not on fragments of land, but on lots of sufficient dimensions to afford them a pecuniary interest in and recompense for their cultivation.

33. Upwards of sixty old, but not infirm, soldiers have been discharged from one detachment; it is proposed to place a certain number, 25, at the Cape under their sergeant, not in an irregular straggling manner, but in a simple, easily laid out village.

34. A sum of 5*l.* to be expended in building a hut for each pensioner, the men furnishing the labour to convey the materials.

35. If a number of such stations were planted at the Cape, and on the plain adjacent to it, the commandant at Cape Saint Mary's could superintend the pensioners, and maintain their habits of good order and discipline by exercising them for three days quarterly, and in one body for six or ten days annually, the men receiving the regulated daily pay while so engaged, and the superintending officer a moderate recompense for the additional trouble given him.

36. By this means a small but effective body of veterans would be always available to assist the regular troops in the field, or in repelling the attack of a foreign enemy, and spreading by slow but sure degrees over the country, constitute the most useful and economical military defence of the colony.

I have, &c.

(Signed) L. SMYTH O'CONNOR,
Governor.

GOLD COAST.

GOLD COAST.

No. 31.

No. 31.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Acting Governor CONNOR to the Right Hon. H. LABOUCHERE.

(No. 62.) Cape Coast Castle, 12th July 1856.

SIR, (Received 9th October, 1856.)

I HAVE the honour to forward you herewith in duplicate the Blue Book for 1855.

2. I have upon more than one occasion in my official correspondence referred retrospectively to the year which is the subject of this Blue Book with some gratification, as having been the birthplace of many, and I hope beneficial, administrative introductions, in the institution, carrying out, explanation, and, I

may also add, defence of which I had, with the several other officers of my Government, to be up and doing.

3. I know it may be said that, as what I refer to as gratifying are various matters which had their commencement so recently as the year in question, it is too soon to chronicle them as sources of pleasurable recollection. But though this may be very true as a general remark, yet it seems out of place when addressed to one engaged in the retrospect of a period which has passed. Quum semel occideris, et de te splendida Minos fecerit arbitria. The very fact that what may follow may not correspond with the commencement gives a zest in commemorating what has been done in a space of time which has closed, and which no future can alter. Carpe diem; quam minimum credula postero. But, besides that, every one knows how much easier to go on is in general than to begin. How many difficulties in prospect open, as we advance, a way to us, like the ghosts of brambles in the Spectator's dream, or lay their bodies in the dust that we may pass over them? so also the recollection of the exertion which the first pull called forth, and that the particular period reviewed in which the exertion was made was witness of no reverse, makes one look kindly at his departed companion, and it is but natural to some extent to associate with that period the pleasure which attends exertion which has had no alloy of failure.

4. To continue, therefore, as I began, I may say that it is gratifying to me to remember, when writing of the year 1855, that within it a regular postal system, with reference to returns and option of payment on the spot, between the great country of which it is our pride to be children and these settlements and intermediate places, commenced and continued; that the form and regularity of the double entry system of accounts had birth and prospered here in the same year. That from remittances from the various receivers of revenue being but four, or fewer, in a year, they began here with 1855 to be weekly. And this latter circumstance is gratifying to me, not only from its fiscal effects, but really as an embryo germ of a new impetus for civilization, for I cannot but hope that such may be the effect of the greatly multiplied intercommunication between head quarters, and as well the outstations as the (either locally or in habits) more remote places in the interior.

5. As bearing upon the same subject, I may mention that the number of country schoolmasters having been doubled in the year, they were sent into more distant localities of the Protected Territories than by the Government, or as far as I am aware by any other authority or body, had ever been done before—to Eastern Wassaw, Western Wassaw, and Akim. I have often inquired from persons coming from the interior, whether so and so wished for a schoolmaster, and the answer frequently has been, Yes, they would like to have some one to write their letters. I have endeavoured, too, to apply to the case of the schoolmasters the advantage which I recognize in frequent communications, by requiring that they shall make quarterly returns of the number and progress of their scholars, and keep and transmit to us the registers directed by the Committee of Council on Education, and by also directing the distribution of simple periodical literature to be conveyed by them in reading to their scholars and others in the native language. I may mention at the same time that my recommendation in my Despatch No. 78, of 27th August 1855, of the appointment of a Superintendent and Inspector of Schools having been sanctioned by you, Sir, education here has now, what I submit is of itself a considerable advantage, a separate department with its own head.

6. Another introduction here, of which I am happy to say the past year can congratulate itself on, was of printed forms arranged principally with corresponding fly leaves. I need not dwell upon the materiality of these for correctness, assistance, regularity, and check. A proper form is its own explainer. A proper fly leaf is its form's duplicate. A proper successive numbering of the forms and fly leaves on each book is a security against abstraction, and a means of identifying these duplicates. And what, perhaps, is not always borne in mind, the fact of introducing into practice such printed forms is taking a considerable step towards making their good effects permanent, because as long as they are in use they regulate the mode of return.

7. The exertion of the several officers in the Government under me to give practical effect to the different introductions I have referred to, to keep the machine going by making plain the rough places, adjusting the fittings, and

GOLD COAST.

tugging in a fix, are among the circumstances of the past year, which I review with pleasure. And with reference thereto it is gratifying to me to remember that with you, or your predecessor's sanction, and through the sufficiency of the local revenue, I have been enabled to add to the small salaries of some of the officers whose merits deserve my testimony.

8. In a report like the present the customs will necessarily occupy a permanent place of importance; nor has any department here been in the past year more thoroughly regulated and invigorated than it. And it is gratifying, also, to be able to show an increase from even the nominal rate of customs duty then in force in the receipts in 1855 over those in 1854, though the latter were considerably above those of the preceding year.

1855.

	£	s.	d.
Customs	614	1	9
Permits	32	15	6*
Port and harbour dues and wharfage	258	5	0
	905	2	3

1854.

	£	s.	d.
Customs	354	11	7
Permits	15	16	0
Port and harbour dues	123	0	0
Not distinguished	133	3	11
	625	11	6

The imports and exports returns, made out in such wise as they are, stand thus for the two years:—

Imports - 1855	£149,587	5	0
„ - 1854	107,200	0	0
Exports - 1855	£140,696	9	7
„ - 1854	200,002	0	0

The exports return is deficient with reference to some of the stations.

9. The ordinances for the increase of the customs duties do not properly come into this report, as part of the fiscal features of the year; but, as a political event, the attempt thus to improve the revenue deserved naturally almost an entire face to itself. It was given at least a trumpet mouth. I think it no small advantage for the question, and for my successors, that the subject has been introduced and so thoroughly threshed and sifted. My own opinion continues strong as to the desirableness and beneficialness of the measure.

10. Any Governor at the Gold Coast must feel, judging from his own anxieties, difficulties, and troubles, that if his Blue Book Report were not to include a distinct reference to the poll tax revenue, one of the principal characters on his stage would suffer a grievous slight. But on this point, too, 1855 maintains its ground stoutly. The collection of the poll tax in 1855 in James Town and its Accra dependencies, in Akim, and in Aquapim, when the circumstances under which the year 1854 closed, and the mode in which the attempt was at first met by some whose opposition was an aggravation of difficulty to this Government which I think it had a right to expect to be free from, are considered, was an event which I think any one acquainted with the circumtances will anticipate was not a little welcomed by me. And I take the liberty of inserting here an extract from my Despatch No. 30, of 7th April 1855, written very shortly after the giving in, and containing a description of the opposition threatened in James Town, and when I had begun to hope, as afterwards happened, that the leeward country would follow James Town in paying the tax. "Happily—to myself most happily—all opposition has melted away, and the tax is in progress of peaceable collection in the town, and every one gives

* Of this sum the sum of £1 11s. consists of passports.

me to hope that the country will follow the example of the town, which is looked on as a kind of head quarters."

11. The amounts of poll tax collected in the two years stand as follows:—

1855 - - - -	£3,990	3	7
1854 - - - -	3,622	15	9½

12. The general revenue of the two years appears to be as follows:—

1855 - - - -	£9,830	9	3½
1854 - - - -	9,132	13	3½

The general expenditure of the two years—

1855 - - - -	£8,501	11	10
1854 - - - -	7,971	2	0

The expenditure in the year 1855 appears to have exceeded that in 1854 by the sum of £530 7*s.* 10*d.* This is referable, firstly, to an excess of supplies in the year 1855 over the previous one, from the Colonial Agent General, the requisitions for which have been already before the Colonial Office. Then, secondly, by greater payments in poll tax, stipends of native chiefs. And, thirdly, by additions to the establishment in the way of new officers, or of increase of salaries of a few existing officers. The several amounts of increase under the above three heads stand as follows:—

	£	*s.*	*d.*
No. 1. - - -	696	12	7
No. 2. - - -	234	16	3
No. 3. - - -	113	0	11
	1,044	9	9

The principal reasons why, with this increase under the above heads, the excess of expenditure in the year 1855 above that in 1854, was not larger, are, that the Accra insurrections in 1854, occasioned an increase in contingent military expenditure; and the Ashantee invasion, in 1853, occasioned a large expenditure in 1854, in a mission to Ashantee. I regret to say, that with reference to these two last heads of general revenue and expenditure, the Blue Book of the year 1855 has, with reference to the year 1854, to depart from the Blue Book of that year, as in the latter the blunder was committed of adding "Arrears of revenue last year," and of expenditure, to the general revenue and expenditure, which ought not to be done, as the former constituted parts of the latter respectively. As from the circumstances of this government, at the time I took upon myself the preparation of the Blue Book in question, I must admit that I am, individually, guilty of the blunder.

13. In the year 1855, the Colonial Chaplain visited officially Accra, twice performing divine service at Christiansborg castle, on the Sundays of each occasion. I cannot but hope that such visits may prove beneficial, in the absence, or rather want, of a colonial chaplain for Accra. I may also add, as bearing upon the Ecclesiastical part of this report, that, in 1855, the custom was introduced of the chaplain having his sermon at the early Sunday morning service, at which the native soldiers of the Gold Coast Corps attend, rendered then into the native language.

14. I cannot speak much of our prison discipline, but I am happy to be able to state that the number who were the subjects of it in 1855 was small. The fact of individuals being prisoners at head quarters, whether for debt or crime, gives the chaplain better opportunity for personal intercourse with natives than he might otherwise have, and he anxiously avails himself of it.

15. I am not aware of much connected with the statistics of the year 1855, deserving of a place here. The crop of yams in that year appears to have been smaller than in the previous year, at least, I think there is for a longer period now than last year, a void place between the exhaustion of the old crop and the coming in of the new; using the latter prematurely, without sufficient drying in cooking, has a very deleterious effect upon persons of at all irritable digestive organs. I sometimes take advantage of a visit from the interior, to inquire as to the food there and mode of cooking; this generally excites risibility, and perhaps indeed, such questions, conveyed through an interpreter, would hardly be otherwise; but laughing is rather a native habit, when business is not on the *tapis*. The result, however, of my inquiries on this recondite subject is, that animal food is very little used, even by the "kings" of this country, except

GOLD COAST.

upon periodical occasions, partly executive, and partly, what we, as Christians, must designate as superstitious. In the case of a chief, against whom lately, many and grievous complaints were made, and deemed proved, one was, that he had never summoned his head men to annual council, according to native custom, or, "never so much" they said "as killed a fowl" to welcome them. An officer of Government, who has been about two years here, says, that he reckons he has eaten while here seven hundred fowls. It has been his fate to be a good deal alone at out stations, and really it is hard enough under such circumstances to cater, except in a fowl or an expensive line.

16. In cooking, the natives seem to have almost a homœopathic prepossession for trituration. They pound and grind by hand labour, between stones, the maize, and bake it; so with their yams, and I believe cassada; they pound also their plantains, and make soup of them. Fish with a strong flavour and snails are favourites. The latter grow to a large, I had almost said, formidable size; I have in my possession, the shell of one, which I found buried about a foot in the ground, within a few yards of Government House, and which measures in length about five inches, and in circumference, in the widest part, about seven inches. A collection of these snails was once sent to me as a compliment, but I need hardly say, that I cannot speak of their taste from experience, though I do not know why I should not, as well as I can of land crabs, which when properly cooked are, I think, general favourites with us. On the subject of cooking, I may observe, that the country cooked dishes (if of materials of a nature and in a state admitted in the category of our edibles) brought to table in the black native made earthen pots, in which they are cooked on the fire, are almost without exception favourites with Europeans.

17. There is rather a remarkable species of fruit tree well-known in these Settlements, called the poppoi. The fruit has almost exactly the appearance of a melon, ovoid, and green externally, and internally of pinkish colour, with the seeds, which are black, collected in an oval; in the centre is a gelatinous like substance. These seeds when eaten, taste like mustard-cress. The remarkable property of the tree, however, is, that its leaves, or its fruit sliced, laid on raw meat will make it tender in a very short time, an hour or so. This property from, I may say, my own experience, I have no doubt of as a fact. I am told too, that if a piece of meat was hung up in the tree for a couple of hours it would become putrefied. Writing of trees here, I may mention another circumstance which will sound strange in English ears; there are some kinds grown much in towns, which are propagated by cutting from them what are called slips, but which are in truth branches, often ten feet long. I have caused this year several to be planted in the town of Cape Coast, and now in the near neighbourhood of the house which I am residing in, there are sprouting and sending out leaves, about a dozen trees of heights above the ground, varying from about four feet to ten, so that we have in the space of two months, got in the town trees of these sizes. Of course, however, they have not the quantity of foliage which a tree which had grown to that size from an ordinary slip would have.

18. With reference to our foreign African neighbours, the Ashantees, I do not know that I can or should say much. The merchants in Cape Coast represented to me about a year ago as a matter for serious consideration, that there was almost a total cessation of Ashantee purchasers with them, this was then considered a sign of threatened war. I hear the same thing, when now occurring, called an effect of the increased custom duties.

19. With respect to the health of these settlements, the year 1855 was considered fully an average unhealthy one, if not more than that. During part of that year one of the medical officers, having also a magisterial situation, used to visit Annamaboo in both these capacities, and the clerk of the Court writing up to him on business, added in a P.S. to his letter "The people are dying here somewhat like fowls." In a letter shortly subsequent, he expressed himself on this latter subject to this effect, "I have the same report to give of the health of the people as in my last letter." I should hope that in point of indulgence in intoxicating liquors, Europeans here are as little exposed to the charge of excess as they have been at any time; but still, at times, instances of it appear. The observation of a native woman who acts often as nurse, with reference to the death of a European who formed an instance of this kind, and whose intemperance attained its end in one of the few first days of this year, was, as reported to me,

to this effect, "God did not kill him, he killed himself; God did not want him." The effect of this climate on the health appears to me, if I may so express myself, like a snake preparing a victim for being swallowed, it quietly slavers him with poisonous saliva, and finally gulps him, unless the unhappy one has previously contrived to get leave of absence, and had the good fortune to get "home." But as I said last year, I repeat this,—it is to be remembered, that be the treachery or poison of this climate what it may, it is unlike many tropical countries, where at any time an epidemic may come down like "a wolf on the fold," and where these

> "Like leaves of the forest when autumn has blown,
> A host on the morrow lies withered and strown."

20. In conclusion, it may be expected from me to be able from my experience to point out in a few words, what appear to me to be the leading salient means for improving this country, morally and commercially; I should in reply state that the most prominent, as well as the simplest, means appear to me to be the distribution generally of elementary education, and the introduction into use of some kind of beast of burden. These latter would necessitate and secure the maintenance of roads, and I need not urge what the effect of this would be in increasing the intercourse of civilized travellers with the interior, and in facilitating the carriage, either to any river or to the sea side directly, of the products of the country, the multiplying of which would be helped by the interior being opened to the travellers I have referred to. It is hard to imagine that camels, mules, donkeys, and horses are all incapable of life here, but, I believe I may say, that the whole of the Fantee country with which the British Government is connected, does not at present possess a single one. Some persons will, no doubt, be more than astonished at my not referring to christianizing the population; but Christianity is itself civilization; and if I may so express myself, elementary Christianity, as far as teaching goes, is with me implied in elementary education.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY CONNOR,
Acting Governor.

The Right Hon. H. Labouchere,
&c. &c. &c.

ST. HELENA.

No. 32.

COPY of a DESPATCH from the OFFICER ADMINISTERING THE GOVERNMENT of ST. HELENA to the Right Honourable the SECRETARY OF STATE.

(No. 16.) St. Helena, April 4, 1856.
(Received June 23, 1856.)

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to forward the Blue Book for 1855, which has been delayed for the preparation of the returns of shipping, &c. from the Customs, called for by Sir George Grey's Circular Despatch, dated 22d September last.

2. In compliance with the instructions contained in that Despatch, I have also caused the various returns to be carefully prepared, and so far as the means of information have been available, the accuracy of the returns may be depended on.

3. It will, however, be seen, that in some respects the information afforded is not so full as desired, arising from the want of proper statistical returns.

4. The colonial revenue for the year 1855 amounts to 16,441*l.* 4*s.* 6*d.*, exclusive of receipts on account of the Widows and Orphans' Fund, and shows but a very trifling difference when compared with the receipts for 1854, viz., 16,145*l.* 2*s.* 2½*d.*, or, with the amount estimated for 1855, 16,310*l.*

5. The expenditure amounts to 16,007*l.* 2*s.* 9½*d.*, exclusive of payments on account of the Widows' Fund, and of disbursements on the colonial account made in England by Mr. Barnard. The accounts of the Colonial Agent to the

ST. HELENA.

end of the year not having yet arrived, the total expenditure cannot be accurately given. It will, however, be somewhat in excess of the estimate, in consequence of a considerable outlay for waterworks undertaken, with the sanction of Her Majesty's Government, to increase the supply of water to the shipping, and which were not calculated in the preparation of the annual estimates.

6. These works were undertaken upon the recommendation of Governor Browne; they must prove of great benefit, and were, indeed, almost unavoidably necessary to the accommodation and quick despatch of the large number of ships which call at this port on their passage to Europe.

7. The returns of population are obtained from a census taken in 1851, showing a total of 6,108. In connexion with this return, it is to be observed that the number of births during the year cannot be correctly given. The births registered amount only to eighty-seven in number, but as the registration is not compulsory, it is estimated that the number not registered amounts to at least as many more.

8. In the returns of imports and exports, I regret that it has not been practicable to comply with Sir George Grey's desire, that the articles should be stated according to weight and measure, and not by the packages in which they are contained.

9. In the returns of agriculture, also, the information given is, I regret to say, very limited. On the whole the year has been more favourable to the farmers than the year preceding, yet the blight and potato disease have continued to prove very destructive and discouraging to any agricultural enterprise.

10. On my recommendation, Sir William Molesworth was pleased to authorize the purchase of a flour mill, which has recently arrived, and will, I hope, prove of great benefit to the farmers.

11. Every attempt at the growth of wheat on a small scale as an experiment has proved satisfactory; and now that the ready means will be afforded of converting the wheat so grown into flour, efforts are being made to grow a larger quantity this year, and ultimately the cultivation of wheat may be generally adopted in lieu of uncertain potato crops, which, though most profitable in successful seasons, by their frequent failures in late years have so often caused great disappointment to the farmers as to reduce the larger number of them to comparative poverty.

12. The annual report on the state of the Government House, which is directed to be forwarded with the Blue Book, forms the subject of another Despatch of this date.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. N. VIGORS,
Colonel, and Acting Governor.

Right Hon. the Secretary of State
for the Colonies.

CAPE OF GOOD HOPE.

CAPE OF GOOD HOPE.

No. 33.

No. 33.

Copy of DESPATCH from Governor Sir George Grey to the Right Hon. H. Labouchere, M.P.

(No. 71.) Cape Town, August 15, 1856.
(Received 3 November 1856).

Sir,

13 August 1856.

I have the honour herewith to transmit the Blue Book for the year 1854, together with a letter from the Colonial Secretary explanatory of the reasons which prevented him from effecting its completion at an earlier date.

2. As the enclosed Blue Book relates to a period of time antecedent to my administration of the affairs of the colony, and regarding which my predecessor has transmitted ample reports, it appears unnecessary for me to transmit an annual report of the colony during the year 1854 on this occasion.

I have, &c.
(Signed) G. GREY.

The Right Hon. H. Labouchere, M.P.

Enclosure in No. 33.

CAPE OF GOOD HOPE.

Encl. in No. 33

SIR, Colonial Office, August 13, 1856.

IN submitting three copies of the Blue Book for the year 1854, for transmission to the Secretary of State, I desire to explain, that, notwithstanding my best exertions, I have been unable to effect its completion at an earlier period.

The causes of this delay have been various; partly connected with the inadequacy of the staff of this office, until its recent revision, to meet the increase of business thrown upon it by the creation of a local parliament, and by the execution and operation of new legislative measures; and partly from the difficulty which is experienced in obtaining the necessary returns from the numerous independent bodies and individuals from which they are required, as well as the necessity for sending back the field cornets' returns for frequent correction and completion.

The preparation also for the parliamentary session, and the extra labour which it throws upon this office, and especially upon the financial officers who are charged with the compilation of the Blue Book, are serious obstacles to the progress of this work.

I had hoped that this would have been the last occasion of delay in the preparation of this volume, and that I should have been able ere this to have submitted the Blue Book for 1855. Every effort has been made to effect this; but an attempt to ensure greater correctness in the country returns has led to the discovery of so many errors that there is scarcely a division to which it was not found necessary to send back the returns, and this has caused much delay, which has disappointed me in the expectation of having the volume completed during the session of parliament. A considerable portion, however, is already in type, and I trust that in a short time the volume will be ready for transmission to England.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) RAWSON W. RAWSON,
Colonial Secretary.

His Excellency the Governor,
&c. &c. &c.

No. 34.

No. 34.

COPY of DESPATCH from Governor Sir GEORGE GREY to the Right Hon. H. LABOUCHERE, M.P.

(No. 119.) Cape Town, December 11, 1856.

SIR, (Received March 18, 1857.)

I HAVE the honour herewith to transmit a copy of the Colonial Blue Book for the year 1855, together with a memorandum from the Colonial Secretary explanatory of the causes which have prevented its completion at an earlier date.

November 1856.

2. I could not have deferred until this period transmitting for your information full reports upon the state of this colony and of British Kaffraria at the close of the year 1855. I have therefore kept you minutely informed upon all such circumstances connected with the state of this country as appeared to be worthy of attention. It therefore would appear unnecessary for me, when I shall so shortly have to report upon the state of the colony at the close of this year, to trouble you with any further remarks on this subject, upon the occasion of my transmitting the Colonial Blue Book for 1855.

I have, &c.
(Signed) G. GREY.

The Right Hon. H. Labouchere,
&c. &c. &c.

CAPE OF GOOD HOPE.

Enclosure in No. 34.

Encl. in No. 34.

Colonial Office, November 1856.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to submit, for transmission to England, two copies, duly attested, of the Blue Book for the year 1855, and to explain the cause of its not having been completed at an earlier period of the year.

I had hoped to have been able to complete it, with the Blue Book for 1854, before the close of the last session of the Colonial Parliament, and the attempt to effect this was one of the causes, in addition to those which I have already reported, of the delay in the completion of that volume.

The main cause, however, of the delay in completing the present volume has been of a different nature. Last year I prepared new forms of returns, in which the several field cornets throughout the country were required to collect the necessary information, as a general complaint prevailed of the inaccuracy and worthlessness of a large portion of the returns procured in the old forms.

The new forms being more in detail, required greater exactitude from the field cornets, and greater care and a longer delay in the completion of the returns by the several divisional officers.

It appeared that many of the field cornets were puzzled by the novelty of the forms, and returned them in an incorrect or imperfect state. This caused delay in the original transmission of several of the returns to this

In order to ensure greater correctness, I directed that all the original forms should be transmitted to this office for examination and check. This led to the discovery of numberless errors and defects.

From scarcely one division were the returns sent up in a satisfactory form. This caused the necessity of almost all being sent back to the several civil commissioners, who had in most instances to apply to their field cornets for the necessary corrections, at a season when these officers are not in the habit of attending to these returns, and it is only within a very short time that the last of these returns has been sent back to this office. The utmost diligence has been since used in completing the abstracts and hurrying the matter through the press.

I cannot omit one other cause of delay, which offers an excuse for the tardiness of some of the frontier civil commissioners in sending back the amended returns. The state of alarm and preparations for defence in the border districts have hindered the earlier collection of the necessary materials.

I submit in a separate memorandum a proposal for endeavouring to make a correct periodical census, instead of an incorrect annual return, which, if adopted, will in future greatly expedite the preparation of the annual Blue Book.

I have, &c.,

(Signed) RAWSON W. RAWSON,

Colonial Secretary.

His Excellency the Governor,
&c. &c. &c.

Colonial Office, November 18, 1856.

MEMORANDUM for His Excellency the Governor.

Blue Book Returns.

THE time is arrived for issuing instructions to the civil commissioners and other officers of Government to collect the information required for the preparation of the Blue Book for 1856.

I submit, therefore, for your Excellency's consideration, whether it is of any use to continue the futile attempt of collecting annually returns of,

Population,
Stock,
Animal productions,
Cultivation of land, and
Agricultural produce,

instead of obtaining them periodically, at intervals of five or ten years, according to the practice in the United Kingdom, and most other countries of the world.

The details of these returns are obtained by the field cornet of each ward, who is supplied with printed forms, and is supposed to ride round his ward, visit every dwelling, and note down all the numerous details required for these several returns. Many of these officers are so far wanting in the capacity required for such a duty that they are unable to read or write. The extent of territory and sparseness of the population in this vast colony will readily suggest the difficulty and inconvenience to these officers in performing this ill-requited duty. Yet the annual cost of preparing these returns is large. During each of the last two years it has been about 1,700*l.* a year. The labour and delay of abstracting the returns, of examining them in this office, and of attempting to obtain some approximation to correctness, can well be imagined.

When, in the first session of the Colonial Parliament, the House of Assembly was required to vote the sum needed for this service, several members complained of the incorrectness and worthlessness of the returns. I believed that this was partly owing to the shape of the forms then in use, which enabled the field cornet to insert what figures he pleased as totals, without any attempt on his part to obtain detailed information of the several dwellings in his ward, which was the only way in which any approach to accuracy could be obtained.

I undertook, therefore, to prepare new forms, which would require the field cornet to insert the details obtained at each house, and thus oblige him to visit each, and enable the civil commissioner to examine and check his visit. These forms were employed on the last occasion, at the beginning of the present year, with some advantage, as I had hoped.

But when the vote was demanded for this service in last session, the same complaint was raised against the present forms, and against any attempt to collect the information through the existing agency, which was deemed a mere waste of money. I only prevailed upon the House of Assembly to vote the sum demanded, upon explaining that the service had already been performed, as usual, at the beginning of the year, and that consequently the field cornets must be paid for it. I undertook, however, to represent the matter to your Excellency, with a view to the expense being saved next year.

There is a further objection to these returns, arising out of the fact that in order to obtain the information in time for the Blue Book the returns are collected at a season when the harvest is not complete, and when, consequently, it is both inconvenient for the field cornets to be absent from their own farms, and impossible for the farmers generally to make a correct statement of the results of their crops.

In my letter submitting the Blue Book for 1855 I have stated the trouble that has been taken with the compilation of the original returns for that year; but, after all the pains taken and delay incurred, the most intelligent of the civil commissioners, in sending back the returns, amended to the best of their ability, have reported that they cannot be depended upon; and it is certain that, whatever reliance can be placed upon them as exhibiting a general approximation to the social and commercial position of the several divisions of the colony, they are useless as a guide to the annual variations which they profess to represent.

The compilation of these returns is also the chief cause of delay in the preparation and despatch of the Blue Book.

It appears, therefore, preferable not to attempt to collect these returns annually through the same agency as hitherto, but to collect them through a chosen and more efficient agency, every five or ten years, for which service, at the rate of 1,700*l.* a year, 8,500*l.* would be available at the end of five, or 17,000*l.* at the end of ten years.

The figures and data of the last return could be inserted in the annual Blue Books during the interval; and it is believed that the superior correctness of returns so prepared will be more than an equivalent for their recentness, when little or no reliance can be placed upon their correctness.

(Signed) Rawson W. Rawson,
Colonial Secretary.

NATAL.

NATAL.

No. 35.

No. 35.

COPY of DESPATCH from Acting Lieut.-Governor Colonel COOPER to the Right Honourable H. LABOUCHERE.

(No. 30.)

Natal, June 5, 1856.

(Received September 3, 1856.)

SIR,

IN obedience to standing instructions, I have the honour to transmit the accompanying report required from me on the general condition and prospects of the district, to accompany the Blue Book for 1855, which is also forwarded herewith.

I have, &c.

The Right Hon. H. Labouchere, &c. &c. &c.

(Signed) H. COOPER, Colonel, Acting Lieutenant-Governor.

Encl. in No. 35.

Enclosure in No. 35.

REPORT on the BLUE BOOK, 1855.

1. *Taxes and Duties.*

2. *Fees.*

No variation from the preceding year has taken place in taxes, duties, and fees during 1855.

3. *Revenue and Expenditure.*

The following are comparative statements of the receipts and expenditure of the district for the years 1854 and 1855 :—

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT of the REVENUE of the District of NATAL, for the Years 1854 and 1855 respectively, showing the Increase or Decrease under each Head thereof.

HEADS OF REVENUE.	From 1st January 1854.	To 31st Dec. 1855.	Increase.	Decrease.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Customs	10,936 1 6	8,682 13 2	- - -	2,253 8 4
Port and harbour dues	136 16 1	132 1 6	- - -	4 14 7
Land sales for cash	88 0 0	170 16 9	82 16 9	—
Land sales and drawbacks	- - -	10 0 0	10 0 0	—
Land revenue	1,439 9 4	1,565 16 10	126 7 6	—
Rents, exclusive of land	8 6 8	16 0 0	7 13 4	—
Transfer dues	1,262 3 1	1,613 0 5	350 17 4	—
Auction duties	463 19 2	538 0 1½	74 0 11½	—
Licences	20 0 0	35 0 0	15 0 0	—
Stamps	1,829 4 9	1,730 18 5	- - -	98 6 4
Taxes	10,038 8 0	10,629 11 6	591 3 6	—
Postage	1,216 18 8	1,159 15 1	- - -	57 3 7
Fines, forfeitures, and fees of court	532 2 2	1,660 5 0	1,128 2 10	—
Fees of office	354 7 6	387 11 6	33 4 0	—
Sale of Government property	19 9 0	34 17 0	15 8 0	—
Miscellaneous receipts	59 8 8	86 2 9	26 14 1	—
Surcharges recovered	5 2 8	1 12 9	- - -	3 9 11
Sums refunded	33 13 11	13 5 0	- - -	20 8 11
Loans	2,000 0 0	3,400 0 0	1,400 0 0	—
Special receipts	126 15 11½	232 10 6	105 14 6½	—
Deposits	- -	1,223 7 6	1,223 7 6	—
Advances recovered	827 4 11½	726 18 6	- - -	100 6 5½
TOTAL RECEIPTS - £	31,397 12 1	34,050 4 3½	5,190 10 4	2,537 18 1½
Deduct Decrease			2,537 18 1½	
Increase on the Year - £			2,652 12 2½	

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT of the EXPENDITURE of the District of NATAL, in the Years 1854 and 1855 respectively, showing the Increase or Decrease under each Head thereof.

HEADS OF EXPENDITURE.	From 1st Jan. 1854.	To 31st Dec. 1855.	Increase.	Decrease.
CIVIL ESTABLISHMENTS.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
The Lieut.-Governor	808 4 0	600 0 0	- - -	208 4 0
Clerk of the council	50 0 0	50 0 0	—	—
Colonial secretary	1,186 17 6	1,210 17 11	24 0 5	—
Government secretary for native affairs	813 11 4	831 16 2	18 4 10	—
Treasurer	455 17 0	453 11 1	- - -	2 5 11
Auditor	534 9 8	543 0 4	8 10 8	—
Registrar of deeds	350 18 0	350 0 0	- - -	0 18 0
Surveyor-general	1,343 16 4	1,054 1 9	- - -	289 14 7
Customs	1,006 13 11	1,032 0 2	25 6 3	—
Port office and harbour department	725 13 6	718 13 0	- - -	7 0 6
Post office	719 13 8	744 15 7	25 1 11	—
Field commandants and field cornets	200 5 10	396 5 0	195 19 2	—
Ferrymen	84 0 0	142 12 1	58 12 1	—
JUDICIAL ESTABLISHMENTS.				
District court	1,251 10 3	1,089 2 2	- - -	162 8 1
Sheriff	100 0 0	145 16 8	45 16 8	—
Crown prosecutor	676 15 5	680 0 0	3 4 7	—
Division courts	4,322 13 10	4,456 8 3	133 14 5	—
ECCLESIASTICAL ESTABLISHMENTS	591 13 4	650 0 0	58 6 8	—
EDUCATION ESTABLISHMENTS	604 0 0	451 6 8	- - -	152 13 4
MEDICAL ESTABLISHMENTS	224 11 1	257 6 1	32 15 0	—
POLICE AND GAOLS ESTABLISHMENTS	1,415 11 4½	1,383 7 0½	- - -	32 4 4
TOTAL ESTABLISHMENTS	17,466 16 1½	17,240 19 11½	629 12 8	855 8 10
Pensions, retired allowances, and gratuities	174 6 3	154 6 3	- - -	20 0 0
Revenue services, exclusive of establishments	436 10 3	683 16 0	247 5 9	—
Administration of justice, ditto	282 6 4½	115 2 1	- - -	167 4 3½
Education, ditto	- - -	177 10 0	177 10 0	—
Hospitals, ditto	67 16 7	99 17 6	32 0 11	—
Police and gaols, ditto	425 13 4	382 16 6½	- - -	42 16 9½
Rent	621 0 0	582 8 6	- - -	38 11 6
Transport	357 15 7½	460 5 0	102 9 4½	—
Conveyance of mails	1,215 18 2½	853 5 6½	- - -	362 12 8
Works and buildings	3,744 7 6½	2,412 17 11	- - -	1,331 9 7½
Roads, streets, and bridges	2,415 4 10	1,447 11 3	- - -	967 13 7
Miscellaneous services	2,251 18 0	1,603 19 4½	- - -	647 18 7½
Aborigines, exclusive of establishments	184 19 1½	192 16 1	7 16 11½	—
Immigration, ditto	- -	10 0 0	10 0 0	—
Special payments	617 10 0½	1,067 12 1½	452 0 1	—
Sums refunded	137 0 11	320 6 11	183 6 0	—
Gratuities to religious, charitable, and scientific institutions	150 0 0	155 0 0	5 0 0	—
Interest and commission	99 18 9	59 14 5	- - -	40 4 4
Surcharges removed	- - -	0 0 2	0 0 2	—
Advances made	825 15 0	1,182 19 3½	357 4 3½	—
Loans repaid	- - -	4,400 0 0	4,400 0 0	—
TOTAL EXPENDITURE £	31,474 16 11½	33,603 4 11	6,602 8 2½	4,474 0 3
Deduct Decrease - - - - £			4,474 0 3	
Increase on the Year - - - £			2,218 7 11½	

NATAL.

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT of EXPENDITURE or ARREAR SERVICES for the Years 1853 and 1854, paid in the Years 1854 and 1855, showing the Increase or Decrease under each Head thereof.

HEADS OF EXPENDITURE.	Expenditure for the Service of 1853. Paid in 1854.	Expenditure for the Service of 1854. Paid in 1855.	Increase.	Decrease.
CIVIL ESTABLISHMENTS.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Colonial secretary	502 18 7½	- - -	- - -	502 18 7½
Government secretary for native affairs	- - -	10 0 0	10 0 0	—
Customs	2 2 0	- - -	- - -	2 2 0
Post office	5 9 5	- - -	- - -	5 9 5
Field commandants and cornets	20 0 0	36 5 0	16 5 0	—
Ferrymen	- - -	15 0 0	15 0 0	—
JUDICIAL ESTABLISHMENTS.				
District courts	441 7 9	- - -	- - -	441 7 9
ECCLESIASTICAL ESTABLISHMENTS	5 5 6	59 18 11	54 13 5	—
Police and gaols	3 0 0	3 0 0	—	—
TOTAL ESTABLISHMENTS	980 3 3½	124 3 11	95 18 5	951 17 9½
Revenue services	- - -	3 16 0	3 16 0	—
Administration of justice	9 0 7	2 2 0	- - -	6 18 7
Hospitals	0 18 0	- - -	- - -	0 18 0
Transport	- - -	31 1 0	31 1 0	—
Conveyance of mails	2 8 0	- - -	- - -	2 8 0
Roads, streets, and bridges	- - -	4 7 2	4 7 2	—
Miscellaneous services	- - -	124 8 11	124 8 11	—
Aborigines, exclusive of establishments	28 5 9	1 5 0	- - -	27 0 9
TOTAL EXPENDITURE, Arrear Services	1,020 15 7½	291 4 0	259 11 6	989 3 1½
Deduct increase			£	259 11 6
Decrease on the year			£	729 11 7½

SUMMARY of the preceding Comparative Statements of EXPENDITURE, Nos. 1. and 2.

EXPENDITURE.	1854.	1855.	Increase.	Decrease.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
For the service of the years 1854 and 1855, as per statement No. 1.	31,474 16 11½	33,603 4 11	2,128 7 11½	—
For arrear services of the years 1853 and 1854, as per statement No. 2.	1,020 15 7½	291 4 0	- - -	729 11 7½
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	32,495 12 7	33,894 8 11	2,128 7 11½	729 11 7½
Deduct decrease		£	729 11 7½	
Increase on expenditure during the year 1855, as compared with the corresponding year 1854		£	1,398 16 4	

RECAPITULATION.

	£ s. d.		£ s. d.
Revenue in the year 1854	31,397 12 1	Revenue in the year 1855	34,050 4 3½
Expenditure as per summary for ditto	32,495 12 7	Expenditure as per summary for ditto	33,894 8 11
Excess of expenditure over revenue during the year 1854	1,098 0 6	Excess of revenue over expenditure during the year 1855	155 15 4½

4. *Roads.*

The amount expended under this head in 1855 was 1,447*l.* 11*s.* 3*d.*

The construction of roads in this district is an object of great importance, not only to those engaged in agricultural pursuits but to the merchants. The trade with the Dutch Republic beyond the boundaries would be greatly increased by good roads. In a military point of view, moreover, their importance cannot be over estimated,

5. *Legislation.*

Several ordinances of much importance, more especially those relating to the management of the natives, have been passed.

The following is a list of laws enacted during the year 1855.

No. 1., 1855, entituled "An Ordinance to more effectually check and "punish the stealing of cattle."

No. 2. An Ordinance to prevent unlicensed squatting, and to regulate the occupation of land by the natives.

No. 3. An Ordinance for the improvement and better regulation of the harbour of Port Natal.

No. 4. An Ordinance to prevent natives being brought into this district.

No. 5. An Ordinance to prevent the illegal compounding of the crime of theft.

No. 6. For the general management and regulation of the customs in the district of Natal.

No. 7. For levying certain duties of customs on articles imported into the district of Natal.

No. 8. To regulate the distillation of spirituous liquors within the district of Natal, and for the levying certain duties on the consumption thereof.

No. 9. Supplementary estimates, 1852, 1853, and 1854.

No. 10. Estimates for the year 1856.

No. 11. To repeal the Ordinance No. 8., 1854, entitled An Ordinance to promote the establishment of volunteer corps for the defence of the district; and to re-enact the said Ordinance with certain amendments.

6. *Imports and Exports.*

The falling-off under the head of imports is not otherwise than satisfactory, seeing that it may for the most part be attributed to the production and manufacture in the district of some of the necessaries of life, such as flour, sugar, &c. The decrease in the import of the two articles just named alone is nearly 5,000*l.* The total decrease of imports, as compared with those of the previous year, is 38,171*l.* The improvement of the exports is great, being in excess of those in 1854 by 8,474*l.*

The comparison of the exports of wool and ivory, and of the trade of the district generally, during the last three years, stands as follows:

Year.	EXPORT OF						Year.	TOTAL VALUE OF					
	Wool.			Ivory.				Exports.			Imports.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
1853 -	3,556	0	0	11,048	0	0	1853 -	36,969	0	0	98,124	0	0
1854 -	5,141	0	0	14,689	0	0	1854 -	43,599	0	0	124,722	0	0
1855 -	8,331	0	0	14,089	0	0	1855 -	52,073	0	0	86,551	0	0

7. *Agriculture.*

Wheat.—Great progress has been made in the cultivation of this valuable grain in the upper parts of the district. The establishment of a superior flour mill in this city, the centre of the district, has much encouraged the Dutch farmer in turning his attention to the production of wheat.

Sugar.—Much land has been brought under cultivation for sugar, and those who have embarked in this branch of agriculture entertain sanguine hopes of

NATAL.

the future. I enclose two articles on the subject, extracted from one of the local journals. A reference to the table of imports will show that machinery to the value of 5,192*l.* 18*s.* has been imported during the last two years.

This import is chiefly, if not entirely, confined to sugar machinery.

8. *Administration of Justice.*

The following returns show the number of cases, civil and criminal, disposed of in the district court during the last ten years.

I. Civil Return.

Year.	Number of original final decisions.	Number of provisional judgments.	Number of decisions on motions.	Number of appeals from magistrates.	Total.
1846	31	40	37	—	108
1847	14	8	32	—	54
1848	12	5	20	—	37
1849	14	21	32	—	67
1850	16	19	37	1	73
1851	19	35	34	—	88
1852	27	48	79	6	160
1853	15	20	53	7	95
1854	5	18	78	3	104
1855	35	31	231	6	303

II. Criminal Return.

Year.	Murder.	Manslaughter.	Administering poison with intent to murder.	Rape.	Arson.	Sodomy.	Housebreaking and theft.	Housebreaking with intent to steal.	Theft.	Receiving stolen goods.	Fraud.	Perjury.	Forgery.	Assault.	Total.
1846	3	2	–	–	1	–	2	–	12	–	–	–	–	9	29
1847	–	–	–	–	–	–	2	1	1	–	2	1	–	–	7
1848	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	1	–	–	1
1849	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	1	3	–	–	–	–	–	4
1850	–	–	–	–	–	–	3	–	3	–	–	–	–	–	6
1851	–	–	1	–	–	–	–	–	3	–	1	1	–	–	6
1852	4	1	–	1	–	–	1	–	3	–	–	1	1	–	12
1853	8	1	1	1	–	1	–	–	2	1	–	–	–	–	15
1854	5	1	–	–	–	–	–	–	5	–	2	–	–	2	15
1855	2	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	9	–	–	–	–	2	13

H. Cooper, Colonel,
Acting Lieutenant-Governor.

Extract from *Natal Mercury*, 15th February 1856.

Sugar.

After an interval of several months, it may be interesting to note a few particulars illustrative of the progress of the sugar interest in this colony.

The Springfield estate, under the spirited management of the present lessees, is rapidly developing its capabilities; and one fact is clearly demonstrated by recent operations, a fact which confers an enhanced value on the resources of the district, namely, that the period during which manufacture can be carried on each year is much longer than in any other sugar producing country; indeed it is doubtful whether the process may not be conducted during all seasons of the year. In the month of December, the mill having been put again into working order, twenty acres of cane were crushed, from the adjoining property of Mr. Beningfield, the machinery for which is shortly expected from England. This cane was only twelve months old, and therefore did not yield the usual quantity of saccharine, but the result, about eight tons of sugar, considering the nature of the material, was considered extraordinary. Last week the mill was employed in crushing the

remaining ripe cane on Mr. Feilden's portion of the Springfield property, which was two years and a half old, and was left uncrushed by the late proprietors, as being past the season, or over ripe; yet this lot from four and a half acres of ground has been successfully converted into seven tons of sugar, the manufacture of which occupied only fifty-three hours and a half. We may mention that this parcel of cane is from the plot of ground originally planted at the instance of the directors of the defunct Sugar Company, so that the efforts of that body, though not crowned with success as regards the company itself, have been productive to some extent, as regards the interests of the colony, irrespective of the impulse given to individual enterprise in the cultivation of the cane.

In about two months hence the work strictly of the present season will be commenced, and during the next eight months it is confidently expected that the whole of the cane at maturity, about 140 acres, will be converted into sugar. An additional set of pans has been purchased, and is to be immediately placed, and a ten-horse steam engine, ordered in England, is expected in about three months; so that the capabilities of this establishment will be shortly increased to an extent which will tell at once upon our colonial commerce. It affords us much satisfaction to hear from Mr. Potter, the intelligent and indefatigable manager of the estate, that no difficulty whatever is anticipated in the matter of Kaffir labour. This we apprehend arises partly from the improved tone of sentiment in the native mind, resulting from a judicious exercise of magisterial influence, but also partly from the possession of that tact for procuring and retaining native labour, which, account for it how we may, is the great key to the solution of the Kaffir labour question. Some men experience no difficulty whatever in procuring at all times as much labour as they require; whilst others to all appearance it may be equally sensible and kindhearted, cannot obtain labour at any price; no, not with the whole bench of magistrates to help them. It is a gift, an endowment, scarcely to be acquired, but certainly very valuable to its possessor.

We are happy to learn that during the few months of the present management, although the operations have been, as it were, out of season and desultory, and notwithstanding a considerable outlay in fixtures and stock, yet that the affairs of the estate show a highly satisfactory balance sheet, giving the certain augury of permanently handsome returns.

At the Umhlali, on Messrs. M'Lean's property, the new mill has been in active operation, and some very fine samples of sugar made there were exhibited at the recent agricultural show. A large extent of cane on this estate awaits the operations of the forthcoming season.

On the Tongaat estate there are 120 acres of splendid cane ready, or fast ripening, for the mill. The disaster to the Annabella, on board of which is machinery for this estate, has seriously endangered the available results of this large production, but still there is a possibility of the machinery being saved from the wreck; and in any case we are happy to hear from Mr. Saunders, the energetic resident owner, that he hopes to be able to adopt such expedients as will save at least a considerable portion of the year's crop.

Southward of Durban, we have Mr. Jeffels and Mr. Mack (who gained the first prize at the late show) both busy with their mills, producing beautiful sugar for the market, and preparing, we believe, for the demands which a rapidly increasing cultivation will speedily create.

Mr. Babbs has a large extent of cane planted and flourishing, and he, too, is erecting buildings to receive machinery, expected shortly to arrive.

Mr. R. King, on his fine flat, is growing cane extensively; and Messrs. Platt, Joyner, Priddle, and several others in the same neighbourhood, can show fine cane fields, in various stages of growth. From all we can learn, we believe there is ground for a confident hope that existing or forthcoming arrangements with regard to machinery will meet the requirements of the present season in all the cases we have named; but it must be borne in mind that those requirements will multiply and extend in a rapid ratio every succeeding year.

On the whole we believe there are fully 400 acres of cane that await the operations of the forthcoming season; and that if no unforeseen events frustrate present arrangements the whole of this will be worked off before next Christmas. At a very low calculation (much lower than results actually realized would justify), we may therefore reckon upon a production of 600 tons of sugar, just about double the average annual import of that article, and thus leaving 300 tons to represent the surplus for exportation over sea.

Since the above was written we have had kindly handed to us, by Messrs. John Millar and Co. of this port, the gratifying report on the eminent sugar brokers, Messrs. Barber, Nephew, and Co., of Fenchurch Street, London, of a sample of sugar from the Springfield estate, forwarded by Messrs. Millar and Co. to that firm:

"35, Fenchurch Street, October 11, 1855.

"We have the pleasure to report to you on the quality and value of a sample of sugar " which we received from you, viz.:

" Crystallized, moist, and good grain, but rather grey; value 48*s.* per cwt., duty paid; " duty, 17*s.* 6*d.* per cwt. This class of sugar is more saleable if quite white, or else of a " bright yellowish tinge. The value of sugar similar to this sample, in May last, was " only 42*s.* per cwt., duty paid."

It may be mentioned that the "grey" colour noticed in the above report has been entirely overcome by later experience and improvements. The quality of the cane is pronounced by Mauritius and West Indian planters to be unexcelled. Letters by the

NATAL.

last mail from the former island express surprise at the progress indicated by the fact of five thousand gunny and vacoa bags having been ordered there for the Springfield estate alone. Our neighbours had been rather sceptical, and perhaps a little jealous, but such an order is too significant an indication of progress to be resisted.

It will be seen that ten tons of Natal sugar from Springfield are to be offered for public sale next Thursday.

EXTRACT from *Natal Mercury*, 29th February 1856.

Many substantial arguments in support of this view might be drawn from the general aspect of affairs in various departments of our social, industrial, and, we may add, political condition, having special reference, however, in all, to the measures of policy guaranteed by Sir George Grey, on his recent visit to Natal. But for the present we pass by these considerations, and notice merely the certain augury of coming prosperity in connection with the production of sugar. The fully established adaptedness of this colony to become an extensive sugar importing country had already imparted an unwonted degree of vigour and confidence to the operations of our planters; but the recent accounts of the state and prospects of the sugar market in Europe have had an extraordinary effect in quickening and deepening those wholesome sentiments. It has been abundantly, we might say redundantly, proved that sugar can be produced here of as good quality and at as cheap a cost as in any country in the world, produced in unlimited quantity, with the aid, of course, of the requisite capital, so as to remunerate handsomely, at the prices that ruled prior to the late advance. But as the price is now from 100 to 150 per cent. higher than its former average, and as it is the opinion of the best informed parties in England that the rise will be maintained at least for the next two or three years, and permanently to a considerable extent, we need not stop to notice the great capabilities of this most profitable enterprise. We have not the slightest doubt that many of our fellow colonists who have hitherto been toiling up hill against all sorts of difficulties are now on the highway to fortune, and will in a few years be, as they deserve to be, men of independent means. The present planters have a great advantage over those who may now come in, since they have the raw material ripening for the mill, or ready for more extensive transplantation; and it affords us unfeigned satisfaction to find that our estimates, with regard to machinery available for the forthcoming season, were decidedly below the mark. Partly as the result of the planters' confidence in their own resources, partly through the assistance of friends at home, whose confidence is at length established, and partly, we are happy to add, through the wise and well-based liberality of our colonial merchants and capitalists, the necessary means have been adventured for providing a larger amount of machinery for the growing crops than we were aware of at the time we wrote the article which appeared a fortnight ago. In that article we find also that we understand (as indeed we wished to do, in order not to mislead,) the extent of cane under cultivation. At this moment it is not much, if at all, under one thousand acres; and this will be increased to an extent which we cannot estimate by the planting operations of the present year.

PART IV.

AUSTRALIAN COLONIES AND NEW ZEALAND.

PART IV.
AUSTRALIAN COLONIES AND NEW ZEALAND.

NEW SOUTH WALES.

No. 36.

NEW SOUTH WALES.

No. 36.

COPY of DESPATCH from Governor-General Sir W. DENISON to the Right Honourable the SECRETARY of STATE.

(No. 145.) Government House, Sydney, September 18, 1856.
(Received 31st December 1856.)

SIR,

I FORWARD herewith the Blue Book for 1855.

The preparation of the returns contained therein has been unduly delayed, in consequence of the changes which have taken place in the constitution of the government.

I beg to submit the following remarks, in elucidation of some of the returns contained in the book.

On analyzing the comparative yearly statement of the revenue, as given in page 142 et seq., it will be found to differ materially from the account of the receipts from various sources furnished in page 51 et seq., under the head of accounts of receipts and expenditure for 1855.

This apparent discrepancy, however, is due to the change by which, on the 24th November, under the New Constitutional Act, the whole of the revenues of the colony, general and territorial, were consolidated into one fund.

The receipts towards this fund are shewn in page 70 et seq., and must be added to them in the former returns, in order to make up the amount exhibited in the comparative table before alluded to.

Having then explained a discrepancy which might otherwise have thrown some doubt upon the accuracy of the table, I will proceed to give such brief explanations of the changes in the amounts collected under the various heads of revenue as may be sufficient to give you a clear idea of our financial position.

On referring to the return of the revenue from the Customs, it would seem that this had increased to the extent of 16,014*l.*; it must not, however, be forgotten that large additions were made to the duties on spirits by an Act passed in 1854, viz., 18 Vict., No. 24., and that the increase above alluded to was not in any way commensurate with these additions; the apparent increase, therefore, is no evidence of a flourishing revenue, and the statement in the column of remarks is a correct explanation, so far as it goes, of the causes which have had an unfavourable effect on the revenue.

But in drawing a comparison between the revenue of 1855 and that of 1854, the fact must not be lost sight of, that in the latter year the consumption of dutiable articles partook of the exaggerated character resulting from the stimulus given by the gold discoveries; the diminished consumption of 1855 may be accounted for to a certain extent by the return of the population to a more natural and therefore a more healthy state.

The increase under the head of colonially distilled spirits is due altogether to the increased duty imposed by the Act 18 Vict., No. 24., before alluded to. The other items of revenue do not appear to call for any explanation beyond that given in the column of remarks, with the exception of those at the end of the table, which exhibit the amount raised by loan for various public purposes and for immigration.

The total amount raised by the sale of debentures in 1855 was 630,967*l.*, and of this by far the largest proportion was expended in the purchase and completion of the lines of railway from Sydney to Paramatta and from Newcastle to Maitland. As, however, the details of the arrangements relative to railways and other public works have been fully explained in other despatches it is not necessary to allude to them here.

The expenditure of 1855 shows a net increase, as compared with that of 1854, of 538,456*l.*; but against this must be placed an outlay of 546,028*l.* upon public works, many of which are of a description which will eventually return an interest upon the outlay for their construction.

The Paramatta railway has already returned a small interest upon the very large outlay made upon it; and it will, I have no doubt, prove eventually to be a profitable investment in every sense of the term.

The Newcastle railway will, I have no doubt, return a fair interest upon its cost, as there will be a very large goods traffic to the port of Newcastle, including an annually increasing quantity of coal.

The interest of the money expended upon the sewerage and waterworks of Sydney will be paid out of the rates.

The increase upon the other items of expenditure is explained in detail in the column of remarks, as is also the diminution in the amount expended upon immigration.

The total expenditure for the year was 1,675,024*l.*, of which 630,967*l.* was raised by loan. The interest of this sum, amounting to about 32,000*l.*, will be a charge upon the revenue of future years.

260,408*l.* may be said to have been paid out of the capital of the colony, as this amount was derived from the sale of Crown lands.

The total expenditure from the income of the colony amounted then to 783,648*l.*, and this is equivalent to a charge of about 2*l.* 10*s.* per head upon the whole population. This charge, it must be understood, includes, in addition to the cost of the government, that of educating the people, of maintaining the ministers of religion, of affording relief to the poor, of maintaining the roads, &c., &c.; in fact it includes a variety of charges which are elsewhere defrayed out of the revenues locally raised and appropriated.

The expenditure of the commissariat in 1855 appears to have been 130,674*l.* Of this, however, 87,588*l.* were disbursed for purposes which had no reference to the colony; and of the balance, 6,603*l.* was chargeable to the North Australian expedition; the remainder, 36,482*l.*, was the gross charge upon the Imperial funds for the maintenance of convicts and the defence of the colony, and of this 7,487*l.* was repaid to the military chest, leaving a total expenditure from Imperial funds of 28,994*l.*

The charge for the maintenance of convicts will, it is hoped, be reduced in future years, as by an improved system of prison discipline it is believed that the labour of prisoners may be made available to a much greater extent than has hitherto been the case, and a corresponding reduction will then be made in expense chargeable to the government.

The commissioners of the city of Sydney were appointed in the place of the old corporation, in accordance with the provisions of the Act.

They have performed their duties as effectively as the means placed at their disposal would enable them to do; but the high price of labour, and the consequent extravagant cost of all improvements, has limited within narrow bounds the work which they have been able to perform. They have, however, done much towards the repair of the streets. They have commenced a thorough system of sewerage, and have commenced the execution of a plan for the supply of water to the city from a source about eight miles distant from the centre of the town.

With regard to the different local bodies, as road trusts, &c., the same causes which have checked the operations of the city commissioners has exercised a similar influence upon them; and the sum of 15,532*l.*, raised and appropriated to the repair of roads, including a sum of 3,046*l.* from the general revenue, has not been productive of much good.

The public debt amounted on the 1st January 1856 to 1,366,770*l.* Of this, 419,700*l.* was borrowed on the security of the land revenue, to defray the cost of the passage of emigrants from the mother country. Of the remainder, a large portion has been employed upon works which will when completed return a large interest upon the cost, and will eventually raise the value of the waste land of the Crown, which may be termed the capital of the colony, to an extent which will enable the Government to pay off the full amount of the debt.

The works for the defence of the harbour and city of Sydney, which are described in my Despatch, No. 137, dated 8th September 1855, were commenced in 1855, and will be completed in the course of the present year.

NEW SOUTH WALES.

The public works which have been commenced or contemplated in the course of 1855 are of importance. Bridges have been constructed over several rivers; buildings for the accommodation of the police, and for other purposes, have been erected; preparations have been made for improving the navigation of the rivers Hunter and Brisbane. The railways, which were purchased by the Government, have been carried on energetically, and surveys have been commenced for their extension and development.

The population returns can only be considered as approximative.

The establishment of a system of registration, under an Act passed during the session of 1855, will, it is believed, afford data for a more perfect set of returns from henceforward.

The educational returns are very unsatisfactory.

On reference to the census returns, it seems that in 1851 the number of children between the ages of seven and fourteen amounted to 28,864, while the number of children attending the various schools was, in 1855, only 18,975; of these, too, a very large proportion attend very irregularly. An examination into the state of the schools generally, by a board specially appointed for the purpose, resulted in a report which exhibited the condition of the schools in anything but a favourable light.

The returns show a falling off in the value of the imports into the colony, as compared with those of the preceding year, to the extent of 1,312,544, or about twenty-two per cent.; and a reference to the items in the return will afford some explanation of the reduction in the revenue derived from the customs; for instance, in 1854, the import of spirits amounted to 1,606,290 gallons, while in 1855 the quantity only reached 582,989 gallons,—not much more than one third of that of the preceding year.

There was also a reduction of more than thirty-three per cent. in the quantity of beer and ale imported in 1855.

In tea there was a reduction of about twenty-five per cent.

While there was a large increase in the import of flour and grain, the value of the imports under this head in 1855 exceeded those of the imports of 1854 by 440,000*l.*, or by full 200 per cent.

The very great increase in the price of the necessaries of life, as indicated by this increased importation of bread stuffs, is sufficient to explain the corresponding reduction in the consumption of spirits and beer and other articles which may be looked upon as luxuries.

The table of exports also shows a diminutive value to the extent of twenty-eight per cent.

In some instances this has originated in a reduction of price, as, for instance, in the case of coal, when the quantity exported in 1855 was upwards of 61,000 tons against 59,000 shipped in 1854; but the value in this latter year was put at 101,752*l.*, while the larger quantity in 1855 was only valued at 58,893*l.*

In the wool there has been a decrease in quantity, while the price has remained stationary.

While in tallow there has been a decrease in quantity to the extent of thirty per cent., but a rise in the price of about seven and a half per cent.

The export of gold has diminished in value from 773,209*l.* to 209,250*l.* The operations of the mint may have had some effect in producing this, as most of the gold produced in New South Wales is brought to that establishment, where the highest price is given for it. The quantity which is produced does not appear to vary much, and may be put at about 100,000 ounces per annum.

The agricultural returns show a large increase in the land under crop, and a corresponding addition to the amount of produce brought to market; the consequence has been a reduction of price, but not to an extent sufficient to affect the cultivator materially, if the returns can be depended on.

The average wheat crop does not exceed fifteen and a half bushels per acre; much too small an amount to make cultivation profitable, when a labourer receives 40*l.* per year and his board and lodging.

The yield of maize appears to average twenty-nine bushels; but this also is but a poor crop, when the price which it brings is considered.

The cultivation in fact is very slovenly, and but few attempts have been made to introduce machines, which, while they very much economize labour, have at the same time a beneficial effect in increasing the produce.

The land sold in 1855 amounted altogether to 127,952 acres, the total value

NEW SOUTH WALES.

of which is put at 269,131*l.* 14*s.* 5*d.*, or, at an average, a little more than 2*l.* per acre. This land was divided into 5,910 lots; of which, 3,462 were town allotments, 1,114 suburban, 1,244 country, and ninety special country.

The average extent of the country allotments appear to have been eighty-eight acres; and as some were of course of larger area than those, it may be assumed that the principal purchasers were small capitalists anxious to invest their money in farms of forty or fifty acres, and to settle down permanently on the land.

The Government has been making every effort to press forward the survey of land for sale, in order to enable persons coming to the colony to select at once such land as may be suitable for their purposes.

I regret that I am not able to give a favourable report of the state of the gaols, or of the system of discipline maintained in them.

The whole subject of prison discipline must be brought under the considera tion of the Legislature, with a view to the introduction of a system by which, while punishment is made real and effective, the expense to the colony may be reduced.

The subject has been under the consideration of a board, whose report will be laid before the Legislature, as affording data upon which any new scheme of prison discipline may be based.

I have, &c.

The Right Hon. the Secretary of State, &c. &c. &c.

(Signed) W. DENISON.

VICTORIA.

VICTORIA.

No. 37.

No. 37.

Copy of a DESPATCH from Governor Sir Charles Hotham to the Right Hon. Sir W. Molesworth, Bart.

(No. 154.)

Toorac, near Melbourne, December 14, 1855.

(Received March 25, 1856.)

Sir,

I have the honour herewith to transmit the Blue Book of this colony for the year ended on the 31st December 1854, and beg to draw your attention to some of the more interesting heads presented on the face of the returns of which it is composed; but as I did not assume this government until the 23d day of June 1854, I am unable to pledge myself to the accuracy of this statement.

Blue Book, 1854.

Taxes and Duties.

Down to the 19th January 1854, the tariff, as fixed by the 16th Vict., No. 2, was in operation, and was replaced on that day by the 17th Vict., No. 6. This latter tariff was again altered on the 8th December 1854, by the 18th Vict., No. 9, which is still in force.

By the change in the tariff which took place on the 19th January, a duty of sixpence per gallon was imposed upon malt liquors, and the duty on wine increased from one shilling to two shillings per gallon.

In other respects the tariff fixed by the 16th Vict., No. 2, remained unaltered. By the 18th Vict., No. 9, which came into operation on the 8th of December, the duty on spirits was raised from seven shillings to ten shillings the gallon, the duty on cigars increased to three shillings the pound, the duty on tea increased from threepence to sixpence, and the duty on coffee, which under the former tariff had been ten shillings the hundredweight, was raised to eighteen shillings and eightpence the hundredweight.

Duties were also imposed upon the following additional articles, viz.:

Chicory eighteen shillings and eightpence the hundredweight, sugar six shillings the hundredweight, and molasses and treacle three shillings the hundredweight.

VICTORIA.

This additional tariff was submitted by the Government and passed by the Legislative Council towards the close of the year, to meet the deficiency in the revenue.

A warehouse licence was imposed on the 8th April 1854—by Act 17 Vict., No. 17—and a tonnage duty of one shilling per ton upon all vessels arriving in any port of the colony. A change in the pilotage rates was also made by the Act 17 Vict, No. 28, of the 12th April 1854, and a new Postage Act—17 Vict., No. 30—was introduced on the same day, together with an assessment on stock, a licence to publicans, a licence to spirit merchants, and a payment of one hundred pounds for granting letters patent.

A fee was also imposed upon the registry of common lodging houses by the 18th Vict., No. 8, and the Governor authorized to fix the rate of tolls upon the public roads by 17th Vict., No. 29.

These additional taxes were, I presume, considered to have been required to keep up the revenue, in consequence of the great decrease in the gold revenue produced by the reduction in the licence fee, Act 17 Vict., No. 4.

Fees.

The fees derived from the transmission of messages by the electric telegraph, which was established during the year 1854, are a pleasing evidence of the advancement and progress of this important colony.

General Revenue.

The ordinary revenue for the years ending 31st December is stated to have have been for---

	£	s.	d.
1854 - -	2,386,398	19	8
1853 - -	1,648,309	16	4
Showing an increase of	£738,089	3	4

But in the year 1854, it is also stated, that it had been found necessary, in order to meet the enormous expenditure, to borrow from the

	£	s.	d.
Melbourne Corporation -	300,000	0	0
Bank of New South Wales -	97,000	0	0
„ Australasia - -	193,500	0	0
Total - - -	£590,500	0	0

So that the ordinary revenue for 1854, after deducting this amount, can only be said to have exceeded that of 1853 by 147,589*l.*

There is a considerable decrease in the gold revenue of 1854 (328,164*l.*) compared with that of 1853, chiefly owing to the reduction of the licence fee under the Act 17 Vict., No. 4, and a decrease in the duty on spirits of 49,656*l.*, in consequence of the large quantities of spirits which were taken out of bond during the latter part of 1853, in anticipation of an increased tariff.

The increase of the general revenue of 1854 over that of 1853 is observable principally under the heads of—

1. Proceeds of storekeepers' licences.
2. Increased duty on wine.
3. Duty on ale, spruce beer, and cider, &c.
4. Increased pilotage rates.
5. Tonnage duty on shipping.
6. Increased postage rate, Act 17 Vict., No. 30; and,
7. Assessment on stock.

Under the head of licences it will also be observed there is a considerable increase to the revenue.

The territorial revenue for the years ending 31st December is stated to have been for—

	£	s.	d.
1853 - -	1,553,829	10	3
1854 - -	1,426,353	17	6
Showing a decrease of	£127,475	12	9

There is a decrease of 138,636*l.* under the head of sale of land and town allotments, in consequence of there having been fewer sales near Melbourne and other localities, in which very high prices were realized in 1853.

Expenditure.

A great increase in the expenditure of 1854 over that of 1853 will be observed, and which I presume was necessitated by the increase of business requiring a large increase of staff to the Government departments, and an increase of emoluments rendered imperative by the high price of living and house rent.

Under the heads of,—1, Civil and Legislative Departments; 2, Police and Coroners; 3, Military and Naval; 4, Public Works and Buildings, and 5, Civil Commissariat, will be found some of the largest items.

The increase of expenditure under the last four heads appears to have been rendered necessary by the extraordinary extension of the gold field, in all parts of the colony, and which seemed to make it difficult for the Government to keep pace with the growing wants of the population in those localities.

Under the head of Public Works and Buildings the expenditure is stated to have reached the enormous amount of 1,490,397*l.*, and the large expenditure for military was incurred by the maintenance for a considerable portion of the year of troops from Tasmania (in addition to the regular garrison) on account of disturbances and anticipated riots at the gold fields.

The expenditure under the head of Education and University Endowment was 142,616*l.*, whilst for Public Worship and for Miscellaneous Departments and Scientific, and grants in aid of charitable institutions, there is respectively 51,777*l.* and 82,935*l.* for 1854, to 21,007*l.* and 41,409*l.* in 1853.

A payment of 25,000*l.* was also made in 1854, to the corporation of Melbourne, for sanitary purposes in 1853. 383,900*l.* was advanced to the Commissioners of Sewerage and Water Supply as a loan, and 200,000*l.* was repaid of the loans which had been received from the corporation and banks.

Territorial Revenues.

The expenditure under the head of Survey, Sale, and Management, shows an increase of 91,806*l.* over 1853, in consequence of the continued increased demand for land, and the increased remittances for assisted immigration raised the expenditure under the head of Immigration from 185,879*l.* in 1853, to 374,548*l.* in 1854.

The total expenditure of both general and territorial revenue is stated to have been as follows:—

	£	s.	d.
In 1853 -	3,490,932	1	1
1854 -	6,043,049	8	7

In accordance with usage these comparisons of the revenue and expenditure of 1853 and 1854 are submitted; but it is to be observed that from the defective system on which the public accounts have been kept, and the confusion created by the mode which formerly prevailed of "impresting" large sums to heads of departments which were not brought to account until the vouchers for expenditure were furnished by them (as will be found fully detailed in the reports of the Finance Committee of the 11th September 1854, on the imprest system, and of the 14th November 1855, "on the keeping and rendering of the public accounts,") it has been found impossible to separate the cash payments from the adjusted imprests brought to account in each year; the amount of expenditure for the service of each year cannot therefore be ascertained from these figures.

In a note from the Auditor General, which accompanies these statements, it is remarked, that they merely show the expenditure of this colony in the years 1853 and 1854, and not the actual expenditure for the services of those years.

"When, however," he adds, "the course proposed to close the books for each year on the 31st December comes into operation, the Blue Book will serve the same purposes as the public balance sheet."

It appears to have been next to impossible, under the system of imprests to which I have called your attention, and which I have since abolished, to separate the accounts of one year distinct from another, and ever since I assumed the Government of this colony, and became aware of the existing confusion, my endeavours have been directed to the initiation of a more satisfactory mode of keeping the public accounts.

Local Revenues.

The local revenue of the corporation of the city of Melbourne is stated to have been in 1854, 654,664*l.* 13*s.*, but this sum appears to include a loan authorized in that year by Act 17 Vict., No. 13, of 525,000*l.*, known as the "Gabrielli loan." 25,000*l.* given by the Government out of the general revenue for sanitary purposes in 1853, and 10,000*l.* on account of the Fitzroy Ward Improvement Act, being part payment of a special appropriation for this purpose made by Act No. 31, 17 Vict.

The expenditure for the year 1854 is stated in this return to have been 569,772*l.* 13*s.* 7*d.*, of which 291,330*l.* was on public works in the city.

The total revenue of the corporation of Geelong, including a loan from Mr. Gabrielli of 199,500*l.*, is given in at 241,670*l.*, with an expenditure of 128,008*l.*, leaving a balance in hand on the 31st December of 113,582*l.*

Military Expenditure.

The expenditure under this head is stated to have been in

1854 - - -	£110,736	4 8
1853 - - -	74,090	17 7
Increase -	£36,645	7 1

The increase of 1854 over 1853 was caused by an increase to the garrison of the head quarters, and five companies of the 12th Regiment, who arrived in the latter half of the year, and the necessity which existed for obtaining the services of the 99th Regiment from Tasmania on two separate occasions at the end of 1853 and the end of 1854.

Public Works.

Under this head will be seen the enormous expenditure which has been undertaken in the construction of the public roads of the colony, and the great progress which has been made in these important and necessary works of public utility, and which are yet far from being equal to the growing wants of the inhabitants, and the vast trade which is in operation in all parts of the interior.

A vote of 500,000*l.* was obtained from the Legislative Council for this service in 1854; and in addition to this sum 300,000*l.* was taken and applied in anticipation of the vote for the same service in 1855.

The expenditure in the colonial engineers' department for wharves, buildings, &c., does not appear to require much explanation. 115,672*l.* is stated to have been already expended in new wharves during the year; 20,864*l.* on additional buildings to the penal establishments; 24,399*l.* on the extension of the jetty at Williams Town, and 25,777*l.* for the erection of additional buildings on the gold fields.

Legislation.

The most important enactments of the past year have been the Act to establish a constitution in and for the colony of Victoria, an Act to regulate the execution of criminals, and an Act for the establishment of municipal institutions; the former gives a new and improved constitution to the colony, and I trust will conduce to the happiness and prosperity of this portion of Her

Majesty's dominions. I attach great importance to the introduction of municipal institutions into this colony by the latter Act.

The remaining Acts of the year have been already specifically reported upon by my predecessor and myself; a list of which will be found in pages 110, 111, 112, and 113 of the Blue Book now transmitted.

Council and Assembly.

A return of members composing the Executive and Legislative Councils is inserted at page 134.

The Legislative Council consisted of nine official nominee members, nine non-official, and thirty-six elective members.

Civil Establishment.

There were upwards of 1,900 individuals employed in the several establishments of Government during the year 1854; but I have already acquainted you with the large reductions which very shortly after my arrival I deemed it necessary to make.

Those officers who have given security for the due discharge of their duties, with the nature and amount of the security, are enumerated at page 573.

Pensions.

The pension list in 1853 amounted to 1,364*l.*, in 1854 to 1,410*l.*

A pension of 100*l.* per annum to the daughter of the late Captain Flinders, R.N. is included in the pensions for 1854.

Foreign Consuls.

The foreign consuls at Melbourne in the year 1854 are stated to be those of Portugal, the free city of Hamburgh, the Brazils, Sweden and Norway, Spain, Chili, Denmark, United States of America, Belgium, France, and Prussia.

Population.

Population is given as follows on the 31st December:—

1853.	1854.
198,496.	273,792.

For further information in detail relative to the census of 1854, I would refer you to my Despatch No. 111, of 28th August 1854, transmitting the population tables prepared by the Registrar General.

The difficulties to be overcome in organizing measures for a perfect census for the first time are numerous. Although great pains have been taken by the officers to whom this duty was intrusted, I must observe that perfect reliance cannot be placed on the accuracy of the returns in consequence of the unsettled and wandering character of a large portion of the population on the gold fields.

Ecclesiastical.

The number of clergymen is stated to be—

Church of England	34
Presbyterian Synod of Victoria	14
Wesleyan Church	15
Independent	11
Primitive Methodists	1
Evangelical Union of Scotland	1
Baptists	3
Lutheran	1
Wesleyan Methodists	1
Unitarian	1
Free Presbyterian	17
United Presbyterian	13
Roman Catholic	22
Jews	2

Education.

The total number of schools, and the number of children under instruction in them, is stated to be as follows:—

CHILDREN UNDER INSTRUCTION.

—	No. of Schools.	Males.	Females.	Total.
Denominational - -	216	7,876	6,488	14,364
National - -	43	1,730	1,284	3,014
Private - - -	132	1,304	1,426	2,730
Totals - -	391	10,910	9,198	20,108

Exchanges, Moneys, &c.

The paper currency in circulation is stated to have been in

1853 - - - - -	£1,657,859	3	9
1854 - - - - -	2,240,086	0	0

The rate of exchange varied during the year from 1*l.* to 5*l.* per cent.

There are no means of ascertaining the amount of coin in circulation.

Imports and Exports.

The imports amounted to,—

1854 - - - - -	£17,659,051
1853 - - - -	15,842,637
Showing an increase in the year 1854 of -	£1,816,414

The exports amounted to,—

1854 - - - -	£11,775,204	0	0
1853 - - - -	11,061,543	17	0
Showing an increase in the year 1854 of	£713,660	3	0

Of this sum the value of gold exported in 1854 amounted to 8,255,550*l.*, and of wool in the same year to 1,618,114*l.*

Grants of Land.

The total number of acres of land granted and sold during the year is stated to have been 405,679, at the average price of 3*l.* 8*s.* 9¼*d.* per acre throughout the colony.

Agriculture, &c.

The total number of acres in crop during 1854 is given in this return as 54,905, whilst in 1853 the number of acres under crop was 34,654, showing an increase of upwards of 20,000 acres under cultivation; the principal products being wheat, barley, oats, potatoes, and fodder for cattle and horses.

The return also shows an increase of 12,000 horses and 70,000 horned cattle in 1854 over 1853, whilst on the other hand a diminution in the number of sheep, to the extent of 262,213, appears to have taken place in 1854, the number of sheep in each year being respectively,—

1853 - - - - -	5,594,220
1854 - - - - -	5,332,007

I have, &c.

(Signed) CHARLES HOTHAM.

The Right Hon. Sir W. Molesworth, Bart.,
&c. &c &c.

TASMANIA.

No. 38.

Copy of DESPATCH from Governor Sir H. E. F. Young to the Right Honourable H. Labouchere.

(No. 70.)

Government House, Hobart Town,
June 4, 1856.

Sir,

(Received September 4, 1856.)

I have the honour to transmit the Blue Book of 1855, and the Statistical Tables of that year.

2. The total *Free population* on the 31st December 1855 is reckoned on the datum of the last census in 1851, with subsequent corrections, at 62,237, including 15 aborigines.

The number of deaths registered in 1855 was 1,692; the births, 2,948; the number of marriages, 1,257.

3. *Immigration.*—5,471 immigrants were introduced in 1855 at the public expense, and 5,416 more paid their own passage. The departures from the colony were 7,055. The excess of immigration over emigration, in 1855, was 3,832. The total expense incurred in 1855 for immigration was 101,369*l.*

4. The *Convict population* at the end of 1855 was 7,740, of whom 5,859 were gaining their own livelihood, and 1,881 were maintained by Government. The tickets of leave issued in 1855 were 1,728; the conditional pardons, 2,109; the deaths, 71.

5. *Climate.*—The rain-fall in Hobart Town was 18·25 inches. The rain-fall in other places is believed to be more than in Hobart Town, and greater on the west coast generally than on the east; but a mean for the whole island has never yet been accurately taken.

6. *Diseases.*—The cases treated in the Colonial Hospitals in 1855 were in number 4,160; of which 917 were diseases of the lungs, and 918 diseases of the stomach and bowels. The deaths were, in all, 147; viz., 49 of the first-named diseases, and 15 of the latter, and the rest of various other diseases.

7. In the *Lunatic Asylum* there were 92 free inmates and 81 convicts; in all 173. The total admissions were 45; the total discharged, 28; the deaths, 10.

8. The number of *Insolvencies* in 1855 were 105; the liabilities, 99,018*l.* The number of registered mortgages was 299; the amount, 329,714*l.*

9. The *Imports* in 1855 were of the value of 1,559,797*l.*; of which 920,695*l.* came from Great Britain, and 94,640*l.* from Foreign states.

10. The *Exports* in 1855 were 1,428,629*l.*; of which 445,557*l.* went to Great Britain, and 13,993*l.* to Foreign states.

The wool exported was 5,858,458 pounds. The agricultural exports included flour, 223,585*l.*; oats, 119,565*l.*; wheat, 21,150*l.*; hay, 22,057*l.*; potatoes, 101,105*l.*; onions, 15,422*l.* The value of oil was 46,165*l.*; timber, 98,546*l.* The total value of all the exported produce of Tasmania in 1855 was 1,194,275*l.*

11. The aggregate *Tonnage, inwards and outwards*, was 220,468. There were 14 Tasmanian steamers, of an aggregate tonnage of 2,011 tons, and steam power 851. There are two patent slips in the port of Hobart Town in full working order, capable of taking up vessels from 700 to 1,500 tons.

12. The Tasmanian *Light-houses* are 6 in number. The cost of management, 4,296*l.*; the light dues received, 6,040*l.*

13. The consolidated *Colonial and Land Revenue* was 405,357*l.*; the expenditure, 506,973*l.* The excess of current expenditure over current revenue was met by the balance of 1854, and by 6,860*l.* of colonial debentures.

14. *Land Sales.*—21,508 acres of country allotments averaged 1*l.* 1*s.* 2¼*d.*, and 3,102 acres of town and suburban lots averaged 9*l.* 6*s.* 9¼*d.* per acre. The cost of the survey department was 15,230*l.*; waste public lands to the extent

TASMANIA.

of 2,160,534 acres were held under annual depasturing licences, on an aggregate rental of 27,583*l.* The total Crown lands revenue from all sources in 1855 was 82,821*l.*

15. *Cultivation and Live Stock.*—Acres in crop, 153,126. Sheep, 1,835,902; horned cattle, 110,304; horses, 18,358.

16. *Wages and Cost of Provisions.*—Labour, 5*s.* per diem; skilled labour, 15*s.* Flour per ton, 40*l.*; bread per 4lb. loaf, 1*s.* 6*d.*; meat per lb., by the carcase, 6*d.*

17. *Post Office.*—The number of post and receiving houses is 67; the number of persons employed, 103; the miles of post road, 679; the number of stage coaches, 39. The revenue of the post office, 9,308*l.*; and the expenditure, 18,473*l.*; the number of letters between Tasmania and Great Britain, 44,000; and the postage, about 700*l.* Letters from hence to Great Britain are prepaid at a sixpenny rate for the half ounce; letters from Great Britain are also there prepaid at the same rate, and delivered in the colony free. A contribution of 5,000*l.* per annum has been agreed to be made from the local treasury in Tasmania in aid of the expense of re-establishing monthly postal steam communication with Great Britain.

18. *Railway.*—A preliminary survey for a railroad between Hobart Town and Launceston has been made. The average gradient obtainable is 1 in 80. The line would pass entirely through private property, and will therefore probably render it inexpedient that the undertaking should be executed by the Government.

19. *Crime.*—The convictions for felonies and misdemeanors in the supreme court were 113. In the quarter sessions throughout the island, for crimes against the person and against property, were 232.

The capital executions were 6, all of convicts or offenders who had been convicts.

The colonial police and gaols cost 76,188*l.*, of which the Imperial Government contributed 18,000*l.*

20. The *Judicial* establishment cost 19,899*l.* The civil cases in the supreme court were 44; the actions in courts of request, 445—the cost of these latter minor courts, 4,660*l.*

21. *Education.*—There were 63 schools aided by Government; they contained 3,377 scholars; the aid was 9,352*l.*

In the orphan schools there are 405 children, of whom 240 are of convict parents, and chargeable to Imperial funds.

22. *Public Worship.*—The churches of England, Scotland, Rome, and the Jewish synagogue, are aided in the aggregate to the amount of 20,263*l.*

23. *General Observations.*—The deaths were fewer, the births more numerous, in 1855 than in 1854; the marriages in each year about the same. The immigration into the colony without Government aid has been nearly equal to that for which a bounty is paid. I apprehend that the immigrants are not stationary, but that many are attracted to the goldfields of Victoria.

The departures from the island in 1855 included 402 persons who were once of the prisoner class. The convict population has been satisfactorily controlled; the number has diminished from 11,000 to 7,000, and the cost to the Imperial Government has been reduced. The Imperial convict expenditure, according to the annnal financial estimates appears to be:

	£
1854–5 - - -	184,566
1855–6 - - - -	132,690
1856–7 - - -	96,154
1857–8 - - -	65,882

The imports in 1855 were considerably less than in 1854, but the exports were about the same, although the export of timber has decreased very considerably. The number of vessels engaged in the fisheries has increased. The consolidated revenue and expenditure were both increased in 1855, as compared with 1854. Less land, however, was sold in 1855 than in 1854, and the suburban lots averaged by one half a lower price per acre.

The general trade of the island has not come up to the sanguine expectations which prevailed in 1853–4, and led to an excess of imports. The export duty

on gold from Victoria has probably induced Tasmanian gold-diggers, instead of bringing back their gains, to get rid of them in Victoria; and the legislation of that colony, which renders it penal for persons holding Her Majesty's conditional pardon to migrate there in future, may perhaps detain diggers of this class in Victoria who would otherwise continue to migrate between these adjacent shores; but chiefly has the circulation of money among the trading classes been probably reduced by a partial failure of the grain crops, and also by retrenchment of late years in the Imperial expenditure for local, military, and convict services. Popular feeling has recently induced the local government to make an exception to its ordinary policy of leaving the production of colonial produce to private enterprise, and to sanction the expenditure of 2,000*l.* of the colonial funds in labour, to test the existence or non-existence of a workable gold-field at Fingal on the east coast of the island. Mr. Selwyn, the Government geologist of Victoria, last year reported his opinion to be that the district in question was an auriferous one, and some ounces of gold have been raised there. I enclose copies of the official notices and correspondence on the subject of this intended exploration for gold. Whatever may be the result, the urgency with which the experiment has been pressed on the local government appears to me to be an indication of the present depressed state of the mercantile interests, and of their natural anxiety to find this new and potent stimulus to a revival of trade. Since the rural inspections mentioned in my last annual report, I have visited the Huon river, and Port Esperance at the entrance of D'Entrecasteany's Channel, Port Sorell, the River Mersey, Emu Bay, and the north coast up to Circular Head; the east coast, including Prossers River, Spring Bay, Maria Island, Swan Port, Moulting Lagoon, the River Swan, the Schoutens Island, Douglas River, the reputed gold-fields at Fingal, Falmouth, and the new western country beyond the Derwent River to Mount Denison, and across the Gordon River. My journey to the new country fully satisfied me that the road which my predecessor Sir William Denison had commenced on the report of the Deputy Surveyor General, Major Cotton, in order to give access to the Gordon Plains, is a work of very great public utility.

Page 296.

The bridge at Dunrobin over the Derwent River, when finished, as, despite unforeseen casualties, will now soon be the case, is a very handsome and massive stone structure; the track beyond it, overcoming great difficulties, is of easy ascent. The vegetation of the Florentine Valley is a dense and splendid forest of myrtle, blue gum, stringy bark, sassafras, and lovely fern trees, overshadowing an extensive level of deep alluvial soil. At a road station on the mountain top, tares, oats, clover, cabbages, and potatoes were growing in the month of May; and the extensive valley, if cleared, would be exceedingly fertile under cultivation.

Lofty mountains bound the Gordon Plains for a probable length of about twenty-seven miles by an average width, including both sides of the river, of five miles, and on the other side of these mountains much open country stretches as far as the eye can reach in the direction of Port Davey. The mountain summits are crested at intervals with turret-like masses of quartz conglomerate. The Gordon Plains are underlaid with limestone, and it was found also in the bed of the river which I succeeded in crossing.

I sent to the Royal Society in Hobart Town for public inspection several varieties of the herbage of the plains, and of the limestone of the neighbourhood; and my journey having been followed by a few other persons who are well satisfied of the capabilities of the land,—although from the state of the Gordon River at the time of their arrival there they were unable to cross it,—I am inclined to think that the enterprise of the colonists will, before long, open this extensive district for pastoral purposes up to its natural and commodious shipping place at Port Davey.

Of the island generally I may remark, that in most districts the extent of wild and densely wooded land is very great,—very much of it hilly, stony, and rugged, and the labour and expense of felling the timber and breaking up the soil for cultivation most formidable. Other lands originally quite as uninviting have, however, been reclaimed in Tasmania, especially the heavily timbered lands of the Westbury and Deloraine districts, and are now extremely fertile and valuable; nor can there be any reason to doubt that in future years an augmented population will make successful war on the extensive wildernesses

TASMANIA.

of this island. The tracts of country aback of Macquarie Harbour, and especially of Port Davey, where there is now ascertained to be much open country, comprises an area exceeding probably all that has been even viewed by the present population of the settled districts of Tasmania.

I have, &c.

The Right Hon. Henry Labouchere, &c. &c. &c.

(Signed) H. E. F. YOUNG.

Encl. 1. in No. 38.

Enclosure 1. in No. 38.

STATISTICS of TASMANIA for the Year 1855, compiled in the Private Secretary's Office from Official Records.

LIST OF TABLES.

No.		No.	
1.	Free Population of the Colony.	26.	Revenue, Land.
2.	Convict Population.	27.	Expenditure from Colonial Revenue.
3.	Troops and their Families.	28.	„ „ Land Fund.
4.	Aboriginal Inhabitants.	29.	„ „ Commissariat Chest.
	Synopsis of Tables Nos. 1, 2, 3, and 4.	30.	Crown Land Sales.
5.	Births registered.	31.	Lands granted.
6.	Deaths registered.	32.	Acres in Cultivation, and Nature of Crop.
7.	Marriages registered.	33.	Live Stock.
8.	Religious Denominations.	34.	Post Offices and Postal Communication.
9.	Distinction between Married and Single Inhabitants.	35.	Civil Cases tried in the Supreme Court.
10.	Number of Houses.	36.	„ Courts of Requests.
11.	Immigration—Expense and Numbers.	37.	Insolvency Proceedings.
12.	„ Ports from which arrived.	38.	Convictions in the Supreme Court.
13.	Emigration.	39.	„ Quarter Sessions.
14.	Imports.	40.	Gaols.
15.	Exports.	41.	Capital Executions.
16.	Vessels engaged in the Fisheries.	42.	Meteorological Observations.
17.	„ entered Inwards and Outwards.	43.	Diseases.
18.	„ built.	44.	Lunatics.
19.	Steam Vessels.	45.	Manufactories and Trades in operation.
20.	Bonded Goods.	46.	Rates of Wages.
21.	Stage-coaches.	47.	Prices of Provisions.
22.	Lighthouses.	48.	State of the Schools.
23.	Coin in the Colony.	49.	Return of Children at the Orphan Schools.
24.	Banking Returns.	50.	Municipalities.
25.	Revenue, General.	51.	Mortgages.
		52.	Conservancy of the Peace.

No. 1.

RETURN of the FREE POPULATION of TASMANIA on 31st December 1855, as compared with the corresponding date of 1854.

	Men.	Women.	Children.	Total.
Population as shown in the Statistical Tables for 1854	14,253	13,208	25,695	53,156
Increase during 1855:				
By Births	—	—	2,948	2,948
Immigration	5,584	3,051	2,252	10,887
Convicts who have become free	3,010	968	—	3,978
Total Increase	8,594	4,019	5,200	17,813
Decrease during 1855:				
By Death	564	333	795	1,692
Emigration	4,801	1,753	501	7,055
Total Decrease	5,365	2,086	1,296	8,747
Net Increase	3,229	1,933	3,904	9,066
Total Free Population on 31st December 1855	17,482	15,141	29,599	62,222

No. 2.

RETURN of the NUMBER of CONVICTS in the Colony on 31st December 1855, as compared with the corresponding date of 1854.

	Maintained by the Government.				Maintaining themselves.				TOTAL.			
	1854.		1855.		1854.		1855.		1854.		1855.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Holding tickets of leave	211	101	74	63	4,018	2,108	2,316	1,704	4,229	2,209	2,390	1,767
Passholders in private service	—	—	—	—	2,228	417	1,659	180	2,228	417	1,659	180
Under probation	490	24	345	22	—	—	—	—	490	24	345	22
Under sentence	1,163	509	864	250	—	—	—	—	1,163	509	864	250
At depôts awaiting hire	4	7	—	5	—	—	—	—	4	7	—	5
In hospitals, and invalids	294	144	140	118	—	—	—	—	294	144	140	118
	2,162	785	1,422	458	6,246	2,525	3,975	1,884	8,408	3,310	5,398	2,342
	2,947		1,881		8,771		5,859		11,718		7,740	

No. 3.

RETURN showing the NUMBER of TROOPS in TASMANIA on the 31st December of the Years 1854 and 1855.

	1854.	1855.
Military Staff	1	1
Officers present	10	30
Rank and file fit for duty	325	678
Ditto unfit for Duty	29	29
Total	365	738
Women	75	83
Children :—Male	80	85
Female	81	83
Deaths during the Year.		
Men	7	7
Women	1	—
Children	19	5

No. 4.

RETURN of the ABORIGINAL INHABITANTS residing at the Station of OYSTER COVE on 31st December 1854 and 1855.

Year.	Male Aborigines.	Female Aborigines.	Male Children.	Total.	Officers on the Establishment.	Expense.
						£
1854	3	11	2	16	2	2,006
1855	3	10	2	15	1	1,225

SYNOPSIS of Tables Nos. 1, 2, 3, and 4.

Civil Condition.	Men.	Women.	Children.	Total.
Free persons	17,482	15,141	29,589	62,222
Convicts	5,398	2,342	—	7,740
Troops and families	738	83	168	989
Aborigines	3	10	2	15
Grand Total	23,621	17,576	29,769	70,966

No. 5.

RETURN showing the NUMBER of BIRTHS registered at the several Registry Offices in 1854 and 1855.

Year.	Male Children.	Female Children.	Total.
1854 - -	1,339	1,264	2,603
1855 - -	1,533	1,415	2,948

No. 6.

RETURN of the NUMBER of DEATHS registered in the several Registry Offices in 1854 and 1855.

Ages.	Males.		Females.		Total.	
	1854.	1855.	1854.	1855.	1854.	1855.
Under 10 years of age - - -	523	438	453	357	976	795
10 and under 20 - - -	61	37	55	27	116	64
20 „ 30 - - -	78	78	57	62	135	140
30 „ 40 - - -	114	95	59	81	173	176
40 „ 50 - - -	118	107	55	61	173	168
50 „ 60 - - -	97	100	49	46	146	146
60 „ 70 - - -	68	75	28	26	96	101
70 „ 80 - - -	46	31	12	19	58	50
80 „ 90 - - -	21	17	3	6	24	23
90 „ 100 - - -	3	3	1	—	4	3
100 and upwards - - -	1	1	—	1	1	2
Age not known - - -	19	20	7	4	26	24
Total - -	1,149	1,002	779	690	1,928	1,692

The deaths of convicts are not registered by the Registrars of Births, Deaths, and Marriages; but these occurred in 1854 to the number of 128, and in 1855 to the number of 71.

No. 7.

RETURN of the NUMBER of MARRIAGES registered in the several Registry Offices in 1854 and 1855.

	1854.	1855.
Church of England - -	731	652
„ Scotland - - -	122	107
„ Rome - - -	317	313
Wesleyan - - - -	47	52
Independent - - -	113	78
Baptist - - - -	1	44
Jews - - - -	3	6
Quakers - - - - -	—	—
By Deputy Registrars - -	9	5
Total - -	1,343	1,257

No. 8.

RETURN showing the RELIGION of the INHABITANTS of TASMANIA, as ascertained by the latest Census; viz., that of 1st March 1851.

Church of England	45,073
„ Scotland	4,485
„ Rome	12,444
Wesleyans	3,772
Other Dissenters	2,379
Jews	435
Pagans and Mahommedans	21

No. 9.

RETURN showing the DISTINCTION between the MARRIED and SINGLE INHABITANTS (not including the Troops or Convicts under Punishment), as ascertained by the latest Census; viz., that of 1st March 1851.

Sex.	Married Persons.	Single, above 14 Years of Age.	Single, under 14 Years of Age.	Total.
Males	9,680	23,822	9,625	43,127
Females	9,771	6,215	9,496	25,482

No. 10.

RETURN showing the NUMBER of HOUSES in TASMANIA, as ascertained by the latest Census; viz., that of 1st March 1851.

Built of Stone or Brick.	Built of Wood.	Total.	Inhabited on 1st March 1851.	Uninhabited on 1st March 1851.
5,723	6,121	11,844	11,245	599

No. 11.

RETURN of IMMIGRATION and its EXPENSE during the Years 1854 and 1855.

	1854.	1855.
Immigrants at the public expense—		
Adult males	1,750	2,139
Ditto females	1,576	1,657
Children, male	419	916
Ditto, female	427	759
Immigrants at their own expense—		
Males	3,847	3,445
Females	1,307	1,394
Children	199	577
Total number of Immigrants	9,525	10,887
Expense of office, lodging, &c. £	4,505 13 5	6,331 11 7
Passage money of Immigrants £	18,627 14 10	95,038 0 0
Total expense incurred for Immigration £	23,133 8 3	101,369 11 7

No. 12.

RETURN showing the COUNTRIES from which the IMMIGRANTS ARRIVED in 1854 and 1855.

	1854.				1855.			
	Male.	Female.	Children.	Total.	Male.	Female.	Children.	Total.
From Great Britain -	751	1,489	705	2,945	1,773	1,449	1,410	4,632
Hamburg - -	3	—	—	3	366	208	265	839
New South Wales -	234	131	53	418	411	176	44	631
Victoria - -	4,561	1,241	278	6,080	3,001	1,194	516	4,711
South Australia -	14	9	3	26	14	13	10	37
New Zealand - -	18	5	3	26	13	2	4	19
United States -	1	2	1	4	—	—	—	—
Foreign States -	15	6	2	23	6	9	3	18
Total - -	5,597	2,883	1,045	9,525	5,584	3,051	2,252	10,887

No. 13.

RETURN of the NUMBER of PERSONS who have EMIGRATED from the Colony during the Years 1854 and 1855.

YEAR.	Persons who have always been Free.			Persons who have been Convicts.		Total.
	Male.	Female.	Children.	Male.	Female.	
1854	6,803	2,147	706	1,435	189	11,280
1855	4,458	1,694	501	343	59	7,055

No. 14.

RETURN of the VALUE of IMPORTS into the Colony during the Years 1854 and 1855.

YEAR.	From Great Britain.	From British Colonies.		From United States.	From Foreign States.	Total.
		North America.	Elsewhere.			
	£	£	£	£	£	£
1854	1,776,694	317	696,296	36,078	95,295	2,604,680
1855	920,695	—	540,824	3,638	94,640	1,559,797

No. 15.

RETURN of the VALUE of EXPORTS from TASMANIA in the Years 1854 and 1855.

YEAR.	To Great Britain.	To British Colonies.		To United States.	To Foreign States.	Total.
		North America.	Elsewhere.			
	£		£	£	£	£
1854	424,575	—	1,007,287	1,132	27	1,433,021
1855	445,557	—	969,079	—	13,993	1,428,629

No. 16.

RETURN of VESSELS engaged in the FISHERIES during the Years 1854 and 1855.

YEAR.	Description of Vessel.						Description and Value of Cargo disposed of by Foreign Ships.		
	Colonial.		British.		Foreign.				
	No.	Tonnage.	No.	Tonnage.	No.	Tonnage.	Black Oil.	Whalebone.	Value.
							Tuns.	*Tons.*	£
1854	5	1,247	1	375	2	737	23	10	1,050
1855	17	3,566	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

No. 17.

RETURN of the NUMBER of VESSELS that ENTERED INWARDS and CLEARED OUTWARDS in 1854 and 1855.

COUNTRIES.	1854.				1855.			
	Entered Inwards.		Cleared Outwards.		Entered Inwards.		Cleared Outwards.	
	No.	Tonnage.	No.	Tonnage.	No.	Tonnage.	No.	Tonnage.
Great Britain - -	91	39,678	19	8,303	57	30,095	17	7,638
British Colonies - -	941	152,185	930	164,064	793	121,928	813	137,383
South Sea Islands -	—	—	5	734	—	—	—	—
Fisheries - - -	9	2,690	14	3,680	19	4,601	—	—
United States of America -	2	1,307	2	587	1	310	1	269
Foreign States - -	14	2,752	58	23,030	15	4,278	40	13,966
Total -	1,057	198,612	1,028	200,398	885	161,212	871	159,256

No. 18.

RETURN of the NUMBER of SAILING VESSELS BUILT and REGISTERED during the Year 1854 and 1855.

	Vessels built.		Vessels registered.	
	Number.	Tonnage.	Number.	Tonnage.
1854 -	10	401	90	10,344
1855 -	6	661	29	4,205

No. 19.

RETURN of STEAMERS belonging to Ports in TASMANIA on the 31st December 1854 and 1855.

Year.	Build.		Tonnage.	Steam Power.
	Wood.	Iron.		
1854 -	2	9	1,758	744
1855 -	1	13	2,011	851

TASMANIA.

No. 20.

RETURN of the QUANTITY of GOODS in the BONDING WAREHOUSES on 31st December 1854 and 1855.

ARTICLES.	In Hobart Town.		In Launceston.		Total.	
	1854.	1855.	1854.	1855.	1854.	1855.
Cigars - - - Pounds	39,836	27,536	11,763	5,611	51,599	33,147
Coffee - - - „	147,495	19,184	—	—	147,495	19,184
Dried fruits - - - „	12,264	5,364	—	—	12,264	5,364
Hops - - - „	5,765	—	—	—	5,765	—
Malt liquors - - Gallons	90,742	69,582	12,727	6,542	103,469	76,124
„ - - Doz. quarts	5,012	5,935	180	400	5,192	6,335
„ - - Doz. pints	—	628	—	—	—	628
Spirits, viz.:						
Brandy - - Gallons	88,293	25,597	23,969	13,655	112,262	39,252
Geneva - - „	29,420	8,845	12,491	3,072	41,911	11,917
Gin - - - „	20,315	4,099	4,795	1,973	25,110	6,072
Liqueurs - - „	647	321	19	622	666	943
Perfumed - - „	—	304	—	15	—	319
Rum - - „	42,597	39,759	18,596	16,022	61,193	55,781
Whiskey - - „	1,673	823	767	544	2,440	1,367
Sugars :						
Raw and molasses - Cwts.	3,316	—	185	—	3,501	—
Refined - - „	1,024	46	83	—	1,107	46
Tea - - - Pounds	438,854	121,987	18,178	—	457,032	121,987
Tobacco - - - „	141,001	78,392	45,463	38,766	186,464	117,158
Wines in wood - - Gallons	22,003	8,462	3,092	3,486	25,095	11,948
„ in bottle - - Doz. quarts	1,840	1,028	274	356	2,114	1,384
„ „ - Doz. pints	—	33	—	—	—	33

No. 21.

RETURN showing the NUMBER of STAGE COACHES employed upon the several Lines of Road in TASMANIA on the 31st December 1855.

	Distance.	Daily.	Six Times a Week.	Three Times a Week.	Twice a Week.	Total.
From Hobart Town to	Miles.					
Launceston - - -	121	1	—	1	—	2
Green Ponds - - - -	28	—	2	—	—	2
New Norfolk - - -	21	1	—	—	—	1
Richmond - - - -	15	—	1	—	1	2
Brown's River - - -	9	1	—	—	1	2
From Launceston to						
Hobart Town - - -	121	1	—	1	—	2
Perth and Longford - -	16	—	2	—	—	2
Evandale - - -	14	—	1	—	—	1
Westbury and Deloraine -	32	—	2	—	—	2

Two conveyances leave Campbell Town twice a week for Stoney Creek, Avoca, Fingal, Cullenswood, and Falmouth.

A two-horse conveyance leaves Green Ponds three times a week for Bothwell.

A conveyance leaves New Norfolk three times a week for Hamilton.

A two-horse conveyance leaves O'Brien's Bridge six times a week for Hobart Town; and three omnibuses run between Hobart Town and New Town each three times daily.

No. 22.

RETURN relative to LIGHTHOUSES, in 1854 and 1855.

Lighthouse, where situated.	Nature of the Light exhibited.	By whom managed.	Expenses of management.		Amount of Light Dues received.	
			1854.	1855.	1854.	1855.
			£	£	£	£
Kent's Group -	Revolving -	Officer and three men	1,105	1,122		
Swan Island - -	Revolving flash	Ditto - -	674	670		
Goose Island -	Fixed -	Ditto - -	563	564	5,050	6,040
Bruni Island - -	Revolving -	Ditto - -	595	619		
Iron Pot Island -	Fixed -	Officer and two men	467	751		
Low Head - -	Revolving -	Ditto - -	532	570		
			3,936	4,296		

No. 23.

RETURN of the AMOUNT of COIN in the Colony on the 31st December 1854 and 1855.

Year.	In the Military Chest.	In the Banks.	Total.	Decrease on previous Year.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1854 - -	40,000 0 0	995,368 17 3	1,035,368 17 3	339,983 2 11
1855 - -	20,000 0 0	665,586 9 9	685,586 9 9	349,782 7 6

It is supposed that about 20,000*l.* in specie is generally in circulation.

No. 24.

RETURN of the ASSETS and LIABILITIES of the several BANKS at the End of the Years 1854 and 1855.

	Bank of Van Diemen's Land.	Commercial Bank.	Bank of Australasia.	Union Bank of Australia.	Bank of Tasmania.
ASSETS.	£	£	£	£	£
Coin and Bullion—1854 - -	182,046	356,591	192,971	235,352	28,406
1855 - -	110,082	228,792	93.607	202,164	30,939
Bills of Exchange, &c.—1854 - -	244,360	352,113	358,486	373,596	85,919
1855 - -	283,515	420,933	419,406	393,803	111,046
LIABILITIES.					
Notes in Circulation—1854 - -	26,812	58,928	52,814	53,562	10,392
1855 - -	26,010	49,895	47,907	45,872	13,006
Deposits—1854 - - -	279,406	522,053	411,376	426,927	58,504
1855 - - -	224,830	462,284	322,132	353,315	73,648
TOTAL ASSETS—1854 - -	426,406	703,704	551,457	608,948	114,325
1855 - -	393,597	649,725	503,013	595,967	131,985
TOTAL LIABILITIES—1854 -	306,218	580,981	464,190	480,489	68,896
1855 -	250,840	512,179	470,039	399,187	86,654

No. 25.

RETURN of the REVENUE of the COLONY for the Years 1854 and 1855.

HEADS OF REVENUE.	1854.	1855.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Customs - - - - - -	182,489 7 10	161,821 17 1
Licences - - - - - -	23,917 11 0	26,143 17 0
Fines, Fees of court, &c. - - - -	9,379 1 4	15,132 6 1
Immigration deposits - - - -	7,773 10 0	2,092 6 1
Postage - - - - - -	6,701 3 3	7,808 13 2
Port and harbour dues - - - -	5,050 3 6	6,040 18 0
Tolls - - - - - -	2,464 11 6	2,550 14 8
Fees of office - - - - -	1,106 6 0	1,206 16 6
Rents - - - - - -	545 14 0	791 0 5
Quit rents - - - - - -	405 19 10	405 8 1
Sale of Government property - - -	168 14 10	1,226 5 3
Interest - - - - - -	20 5 4	26 7 5
Reimbursements in aid of expenses incurred - -	24,858 1 0	21,925 5 6
Deposit account - - - - -	6,412 15 7	4,814 10 2
Miscellaneous receipts - - - -	4,261 10 10	1,042 13 9
Transfers from other funds - - -	—	54,942 1 1
Advances to heads of departments returned - -	—	6,912 0 0
Debentures - - - - - -	—	6,860 0 0
Agent-General - - - - -	—	651 10 0
Convict discipline - - - -	—	141 13 4
Total - - £	275,554 15 10	322,536 3 7

No. 26.

RETURN of the LAND REVENUE of the COLONY for the Years 1854 and 1855.

HEADS OF REVENUE.	1854.			1855.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Sale of Crown land by auction	47,171	18	6	32,625	17	0
Ditto under regulations of November 1851	25,511	0	0	15,389	6	3
Licences to occupy Crown lands	25,141	12	8	24,168	15	8
Rent of Crown land selected for future purchase	4,010	11	7	3,414	14	2
Fees received by Surveyor-General	3,524	5	6	1,987	15	0
Fees for surveys	978	5	0	1,300	7	6
Fees for diagrams on grant deeds	152	17	6	187	5	0
Moiety of fines on grants	57	7	1	64	17	9
Quit rents subsequent to 1st April 1856	374	14	0	418	7	5
Ditto one third redemption	156	1	5	156	2	11
Royalty on coals	122	11	10	156	8	5
Repayments on account of passage money, &c.	3,466	10	0	1,949	0	0
Repayments by immigrants	74	15	0	19	13	9
Sales of Government property	273	6	6	3	3	0
Instalment of debt, Bridgewater Commissioners	500	0	0	—		
Interest from ditto	322	10	0	190	0	0
Rent of observatory building	50	0	0	83	6	8
Advertising in Gazette	0	17	6	3	7	6
Repayments by heads of departments	323	10	2	700	0	0
From Surveyor-General, salary forfeited	12	18	7	—		
Miscellaneous	—			2	14	0
Total £	112,225	12	7	82,821	1	10

No. 27.

RETURN of the EXPENDITURE of the COLONY for the Years 1854 and 1855.

HEADS OF EXPENDITURE.	1854.			1855.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
ESTABLISHMENTS :						
Civil and legislative	43,199	0	9	59,633	16	3
Police and gaols	61,855	12	3	76,190	16	9
Judicial	13,129	2	5	19,399	2	10
Ecclesiastical	12,757	9	4	20,263	9	2
Miscellaneous	22,147	14	9	559	9	5
SERVICES, EXCLUSIVE OF ESTABLISHMENTS :						
Works and buildings	13,875	3	1	27,938	10	6
Roads and streets	11,572	7	7	14,982	6	7
Immigration	11,075	7	7	94,876	0	0
Conveyance of mails	4,996	17	9	7,372	9	9
Education	6,292	2	4	9,737	18	7
Charitable allowances	6,426	8	8	10,749	10	8
Stores and provisions	9,661	3	2	14,069	19	3
Remittances to Agent General	19,000	0	0	—		
Other Services	40,541	16	2	37,421	15	10
Total £	276,650	5	10	393,195	5	7

No. 28.

RETURN of the EXPENDITURE from the LAND FUND during the Years 1854 and 1855.

HEADS OF EXPENDITURE.	1854.			1855.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Survey Department	16,102	3	7	15,230	14	0
Commissioners of Titles	994	18	0	707	12	0
Correspondence, collection, and audit of Land Revenue	2,111	5	6	2,099	1	8
Accountant of Stores	70	3	6	9	5	3
Aborigines	874	4	6	495	0	9
Public works	641	17	7	655	7	6
Immigration officers	1,437	15	3	1,872	15	1
Miscellaneous	5,766	15	2	997	18	4
Transport	89	2	5	208	7	10
Assessments	19,329	7	9	10,860	6	3
Rents	450	0	0	550	0	0
Charitable allowances	26	6	1	30	7	6
Roads, streets, and bridges	4,366	0	6	5,039	3	6
Works and Buildings	993	2	7	398	18	5
Survey of land	884	2	10	2,774	0	9
Immigration	9,420	12	8	1,732	15	9
Accountant of Stores	5,298	10	1	7,938	0	11
Advances to heads of Departments	350	0	0	1,000	0	0
Temporary increase to Salaries of Officers under Schedule C. Part 1.	6,788	0	1			
2.	3,506	8	5			
3.	10,181	0	4			
Miscellaneous	-	-	-	5,776	0	6
Military pensioners	-	-	-	200	0	0
Pensions	-	-	-	260	17	9
Transfers to other funds	-	-	-	54,942	1	1
Total £	89,681	16	9	113,778	14	10

No. 29.

RETURN of the EXPENDITURE during the Years 1854 and 1855 on account of MILITARY and CONVICT SERVICES.

HEADS OF EXPENDITURE.	1854.			1855.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Commissariat, including provisions, fuel, and light for Army and Ordnance	59,600	15	2	45,729	11	7
Army services, staff and regimental	34,547	7	10	33,221	10	5
Ordnance and Engineer services	9,787	14	9	12,005	9	4
Advances in aid of other departments	3,408	2	10	3,782	3	3
Total Military	107,344	0	7	94,738	14	7
Convict services	172,973	18	8	141,249	6	4
Total £	280,317	19	3	235,988	0	11

Consignments of specie received in 1854 - - - - - £250,119
Ditto in 1855 - - - - - - £86,248

No. 30.

RETURN of CROWN LAND, and of TOWN and SUBURBAN ALLOTMENTS sold, during the Years 1854 and 1855.

YEAR.	Country Allotments sold.								Town and Suburban Allotments sold.							
	Quantity sold.			Amount of Sale.			Average Price per Acre.		Quantity sold.			Amount of Sale.			Average Price per Acre.	
	A.	R.	P.	£	s.	d.	£	s. d.	A.	R.	P.	£	s.	d.	£	s. d.
1854	32,433	1	30	34,157	11	0	1	1 0¾	2,245	2	31	41,962	7	0	18	13 8½
1855	21,508	1	11	22,845	2	6	1	1 2¼	3,102	1	0	28,971	10	3	9	6 9¼

No. 31.

RETURN relative to CROWN LANDS GRANTED, SOLD, or HELD UNDER DEPASTURING LICENCES in 1854 and 1855.

Number of Acres in the Colony.	Granted or sold up to the end of the Year.		Held under Depasturing Licences on 31st December.			
	Acres.		Acres.		Rental.	
	1854.	1855.	1854.	1855.	1854.	1855.
14,482,892	2,804,183	2,828,793	2,284,214	2,160,534	£ 29,152	£ 27,583

No. 32.

RETURN of the NUMBER of ACRES in CROP, and the NATURE of the CROP, and PRODUCE in 1854 and 1855.

	1854.		1855.	
	Acres in Crop.	Produce.	Acres in Crop.	Produce.
Barley	10,547¾	125,835 bushels.	12,077	143,332 bushels.
Beans	29¾	653 „	63¾	1,186 „
Carrots	108¾	508 tons.	90¾	599¼ tons.
Hops	55	27 „	—	—
Mangel Wurzel	42¾	92 „	39¾	411 tons.
Oats	35,320½	526,457 bushels.	38,216½	666,264 bushels.
Peas	459	6,665 „	571	10,727 „
Potatoes	5,932½	23,256 tons.	8,916¾	36,984 tons.
Tares	303¼	1,467 bushels.	464	862 bushels.
Turnips	4,989¼	21,903 tons.	5,442¾	29,577 tons.
Wheat	42,920	790,588 bushels.	64,898¾	1,212,027 bushels.
English Grasses	27,023¾	18,886 tons.	22,345¾	14,498 tons.
	127,732		153,126¾	

Other land was under cultivation, but not in crop, to the extent of 41,758 acres on 31st December 1855.

No. 33.

RETURN of the NUMBER of LIVE STOCK in the Colony on 31st December 1854 and 1855.

	1854.	1855.
Horses	17,384	18,358
Horned Cattle	103,752	110,304
Sheep	1,831,308	1,835,902
Goats	1,629	3,055
Pigs	22,598	22,331
Asses	14	13
Mules	5	6

No. 34.

RETURN of the NUMBER of POST OFFICES and of LETTERS and NEWSPAPERS passing through the General Post Office, Hobart Town, for 1854 and 1855.

	1854.	1855.
Post Offices and Receiving-houses	65	67
Number of Persons employed	95	103
Miles of Post Roads	679	679
Letters sent from Hobart Town	231,597	211,592
Newspapers sent from Hobart Town	218,000	459,167
Letters received	204,414	214,743
Newspapers received	122,500	147,577
Penny Post — Hobart — Franked letters	13,669	7,575
Penny Post — Hobart — Unfranked letters	35,499	43,281
Penny Post — Launceston — Franked letters	199	90
Penny Post — Launceston — Unfranked letters	15,123	23,125
Revenue of Post Office	£ 8,198	£ 9,308
Expenditure	16,291	18,473

No. 35.

RETURN of the NUMBER of CIVIL CASES tried in the SUPREME COURT in 1854 and 1855.

YEAR.	Before Juries of Twelve.		Before Juries of Four.		Total.
	Common and Mixed.	Special.	Defended.	Undefended.	
1854	12	8	18	2	40
1855	43		—	1	44

No. 36.

RETURN of PROCESS issued out of the COURT OF REQUESTS during the Years 1854 and 1855.

District.	Summonses issued.		Fieri Facias.		Capias ad Satisfaciendum.		Actions tried.	
	1854.	1855.	1854.	1855.	1854.	1855.	1854.	1855.
Hobart Town	513	501	123	136	1	—	296	284
Launceston	84	188	17	24	—	1	39	75
Richmond	20	19	—	—	—	—	11	13
New Norfolk	32	37	—	—	—	—	15	22
Oatlands	33	20	—	1	—	—	17	14
Campbell Town	28	30	—	4	—	—	15	15
Longford	64	40	10	5	—	—	37	22
Total	774	835	152	170	1	1	430	445

No. 37.

RETURN of the NUMBER of INSOLVENCIES in 1854 and 1855.

—	Number of Persons who have been declared Insolvent by their Creditors.	Amount of Scheduled Assets.	Amount of Scheduled Liabilities.	Number of Persons who have declared themselves Insolvent.	Amount of Scheduled Assets.	Amount of Scheduled Liabilities.
		£ s. d.	£ s. d.		£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Hobart, 1854	2	107 0 0	1,133 17 6	31	32,414 19 0	67,769 18 5
„ 1855	5	12,965 8 5	13,893 8 5	64	64,201 6 4	58,093 19 5
Launceston, 1854	2	4,295 7 8	4,639 10 0	8	4,580 19 10	25,863 7 4
„ 1855	3	5,960 0 0	16,057 0 0	41	17,431 9 0	40,914 17 0

No. 38.

RETURN of CONVICTIONS in the SUPREME COURT in 1854 and 1855.

YEAR.	Felonies.	Misdemeanors.	Total.
1854	98	7	105
1855	97	16	113

No. 39.

RETURN of the NUMBER of CONVICTIONS before the COURTS of QUARTER SESSIONS in 1854 and 1855.

	Crimes against the Person.		Crimes against Property.		Total.	
	1854.	1855.	1854.	1855.	1854.	1855.
Hobart Town	16	18	69	60	85	78
Launceston	18	17	45	59	63	76
Richmond	—	15	8	1	8	16
Campbell Town	—	—	—	—	—	—
Longford	—	2	—	15	—	17
New Norfolk	—	—	6	14	6	14
Oatlands	—	1	—	30	—	31
	34	53	128	179	162	232

No. 40.

RETURN of the NUMBER of GAOLS in TASMANIA, with the NUMBER of PRISONERS in CONFINEMENT, at Michaelmas of the Years 1854 and 1855.

	1854.	1855.
Number of Gaols	7	7
Capable of containing in separate cells	132	127
,, if more than one prisoner sleeps in a cell	565	550
Number of prisoners confined at Michaelmas	113	134
Debtors in confinement	2	3
Total cases of sickness in the year	143	166
Deaths during the year	1	1

No. 41.

RETURN of the NUMBER of CRIMINALS EXECUTED in the Colony in 1854 and 1855.

	1854.	1855.
Persons who have been convicts	4	3
Convicts	3	3
	7	6

No. 42.

SYNOPSIS of the METEOROLOGICAL OBSERVATIONS for the Years 1854 and 1855.

—	1854.	1855.
	Inches.	*Inches.*
Mean pressure of the Year, corrected down to the standard temperature of 32° Fahrenheit.	29·785	29·746
Quantity of rain which fell - - - -	30·56	18·25
	Degrees.	*Degrees.*
Mean temperature of the year - - - -	53·03	58·06

REMARKS FOR 1854.—Thunder-storms in January, March, October, November; hot winds, January, from N.W.; gale of wind, February, from S.S.W., accompanied by a torrent of rain, 8¾ inches having fallen in 38 hours; gale from S.E., 22d March, also attended with heavy rain, and causing a flood; gale from N.W., 16th September, lasting 24 hours.

REMARKS FOR 1855.—The maximum temperature of the year 1855 was 96°; the minimum was 30°; the maximum solar intensity, black bulb thermometer, was 132°; thunder-storm in October; high winds, March, May, August, November.

No. 43.

RETURN of DISEASES TREATED at HER MAJESTY'S COLONIAL HOSPITALS in HOBART TOWN and LAUNCESTON in 1854 and 1855.

Diseases.	Cases treated.		Deaths.	
	1854.	1855.	1854.	1855.
Diseases of stomach and bowels -	604	968	12	15
„ of lungs - - -	538	917	58	49
Abscesses and ulcers - -	489	573	3	5
Diseases of the eyes - - -	330	252	—	—
Rheumatic affections - -	287	362	3	6
Diseases of the brain - -	255	175	34	13
Wounds and injuries - -	247	293	6	2
Venereal diseases - - -	106	160	2	7
Diseases of the skin - -	60	31	—	—
Fevers - - - -	46	24	3	—
Dropsies - - - -	21	27	11	15
Diseases of the liver - -	18	20	4	4
Other Diseases - - -	448	658	32	31
Total - -	3,449	4,460	168	147

In 1855 there were 3,030 cases treated, and 45 deaths, at the Hospitals on Tasman's Peninsula, where all the Invalid Convicts, and nearly all of those under punishment, are stationed.

No. 44.

RETURN of PERSONS TREATED in the LUNATIC ASYLUMS on the 31st December 1854 and 1855.

—	1854.			1855.		
	Male.	Female.	Total.	Male.	Female.	Total.
Admitted during the year - -	60	19	79	26	19	45
Discharged during the year :—						
Cured - - - -	26	23	49	10	9	19
Improved - - -	2	—	2	3	4	7
To friends without improvement	8	—	8	—	2	2
Died - - - -	25	6	31	4	6	10
*Escaped - - - -	6	—	6	2	—	2
Number remaining at the end of the year :—						
Free - - - -	53	33	86	54	38	92
Convicts - - -	111	42	153	46	35	81

* Recaptured.

TASMANIA.

No. 45.

RETURN of the PRINCIPAL MANUFACTORIES and TRADES in operation in the Colony at the end of 1854 and 1855.

TRADES, &c.	1854.	1855.	TRADES, &c.	1854.	1855.
Agricultural implement makers	21	28	Gunsmiths	7	8
Auctioneers	19	24	Ironmongers	21	22
Bakers	102	105	Maltsters	13	16
Basket makers	15	9	Mast and block makers	9	9
Blacksmiths	144	159	Mills, wind and water	51	54
Bonedust manufactories	1	2	Ditto, steam	23	28
Brassfoundries	6	6	Painters and glaziers	41	34
Brewers	42	40	Pastrycooks	31	32
Bricklayers (master)	71	88	Pianoforte makers	2	4
Builders (ditto)	43	54	Potteries	4	4
Butchers	151	157	Printing offices	13	13
Cabinet makers and joiners	38	51	Publicans	378	400
Candle manufactories	9	13	Ropemakers	2	3
Carpenters	109	147	Sailmakers	9	8
Carvers and gilders	4	4	Sawmills	16	22
Chemists	22	21	Shipwrights and boat-builders	25	28
Cider makers	6	4	Shoemakers	254	330
Coachmakers	6	7	Soapboilers	4	4
Cooperages	13	13	Starch manufactories	1	1
Corn and ship chandlers	20	17	Stonemasons (master)	55	88
Dyers	1	1	Tailors (ditto)	84	102
Engineers	15	23	Tanners	27	30
Fellmongers	28	26	Tinworkers	31	30
Foundries	5	5	Tobacconists	16	20
Furriers	9	12	Turners	10	16
General dealers	343	373	Watchmakers	22	29
Glue and size makers	6	6	Wheelwrights	72	78
Goldbeaters	1	1	Wine merchants	30	35
Grocers	48	63	Woolstaplers	7	9

No. 46.

RETURN of the AVERAGE WAGES paid to MECHANICS and LABOURERS during 1854 and 1855, without Board and Lodging.

	Hobart Town.				Launceston.		In the Interior.					
	1854.		1855.		1854.	1855.	1854.			1855.		
	s.	*d.*	*s.*	*d.*	*s.*	*s.*	*s.*	*d.*	*s.*	*s.*	*d.*	*s.*
Bricklayers	15	0	16	0	12	10	8	0 to	20	7	6 to	18
Carpenters	13	0	15	0	13	10	8	0 „	15	7	6 „	16
Joiners	13	6	15	0	14	12	8	0 „	15	8	0 „	15
Masons, cutters	15	0	18	0	14	13	7	6 „	15	9	0 „	18
Ditto, builders	16	0	18	0	18	15	8	0 „	20	10	0 „	18
Painters	12	0	14	0	12	10	7	6 „	20	8	0 „	15
Plumbers	14	0	14	0	16	13	8	0 „	20	6	0 „	15
Plasterers	15	0	16	0	12	10	7	0 „	15	8	0 „	15
Quarrymen	8	6	10	0	9	8	6	0 „	15	5	0 „	10
Labourers	5*s.* to 10*s.*		6	6	5*s.* to 10*s.*	7	5	0 „	15	5	0 „	15

No. 47.

RETURN showing the AVERAGE PRICES of PROVISIONS at HOBART TOWN, on 31st December 1854 and 1855.

	1854.			1855.				1854.			1855.		
	£	*s.*	*d.*	£	*s.*	*d.*		£	*s.*	*d.*	£	*s.*	*d.*
Beer, Colonial, per gallon	0	2	0	0	2	0	Soap, per pound	0	0	4	0	0	4
Bread, per pound	0	0	4¼	0	0	3⅓	Starch, ditto	0	0	9	0	0	9
Butter, fresh, ditto	0	2	6	0	2	4	Tobacco, ditto	0	4	0	0	4	6
Butter, salt, ditto	0	2	0	0	2	0	Meat.—Beef, ditto	0	0	6	0	0	6½
Candles, tallow, ditto	0	1	0	0	0	9	Mutton, ditto	0	0	6	0	0	6
Cheese, Colonial, ditto	0	1	6	0	2	0	Veal, ditto	0	1	0	0	1	0
Coffee, ditto	0	1	6	0	2	0	Pork, ditto	0	1	2	0	1	0
Flour, fine, per cwt.	1	18	0	2	0	0	Bacon	0	1	9	0	1	9
Oil, lamp, per gallon	0	12	0	0	12	0	Ham, ditto	0	1	9	0	1	9
Rice, per pound	0	0	5	0	0	5	Coals.—Pt. Arthur, per ton	2	10	0	1	10	0
Tea, Hyson-skin, ditto	0	2	6	0	2	6	New Town, ditto	1	10	0	1	5	0
Sugar, brown, ditto	0	0	3	0	0	3½	Douglas river, do.	1	15	0	1	17	6
Sugar, loaf, ditto	0	0	6	0	0	6	Firewood, cut up into billets, per ton	1	10	0	1	0	0
Salt, ditto	0	0	2	0	0	2	Firewood, in log, per ton	1	0	0	0	17	0
Potatoes, per cwt.	1	8	0	0	15	0							

No. 48.

RETURN relative to the GOVERNMENT SCHOOLS on 31st December 1854 and 1855.

Year.	Number of Schools aided by Government.	Number of Male Scholars.	Number of Female Scholars.	Total.	Expense of the Schools to the Government.
					£ s. d.
1854 - -	50	1,635	1,266	2,901	7,269 2 4
1855 - -	63	1,941	1,436	3,377	9,352 1 7

No. 49.

RETURN relative to the QUEEN'S ORPHAN SCHOOLS in 1854 and 1855.

	1854.	1855.
Boys chargeable on Colonial Funds -	67	92
Girls ditto - -	53	73
Boys chargeable on Convict Funds - -	171	139
Girls ditto - -	131	101
Number of cases of Sickness in the year -	775	823
Number of Deaths during the year - -	53	38
Number of Boys admitted during the year -	79	66
Number of Girls ditto -	70	62
Number of Boys discharged or apprenticed during the year - - - - -	56	52
Number of Girls, ditto - - - - -	63	55
Total number of Boys in the School -	238	231
Total number of Girls ditto - -	184	174

No. 50.

RETURN relative to MUNICIPALITIES and ROAD TRUSTS in 1854 and 1855.

Corporate Body.		1854.		1855.	
		Revenue.	Expenditure.	Revenue.	Expenditure.
		£	£	£	£
Municipality	Hobart Town - -	23,201	17,777	19,481	18,986
	Launceston - - -	7,323	5,762	6,551	5,569
Road Trust	Hamilton - - - -	5,145	3,263	2,893	2,893
	Longford - - -	4,306	3,897	—	—
	Westbury - -	2,438	2,011	—	—
	Glamorgan - - -	2,191	1,794	2,718	2,718
	Morven - - -	1,533	1,193	—	—
	Swanport - - -	806	372	—	—
	Oatlands - - -	777	122	—	—
	Great Lake - - - -	684	155	—	—
	Lower Derwent - -	580	1,193	—	—
	Brown's River - - -	461	213	—	—
	Pembroke - - -	437	257	—	—
	Breadalbane - - - -	364	288	—	—
	Sorell - - - -	275	231	588	707
	Horton - - -	261	98	307	142
	Richmond - - -	204	93	665	665
	Devon - - -	1,236	951	2,064	2,323
	Upper Derwent - - -	—	—	474	474
	Broad Marsh - - -	—	—	318	95
	Chudleigh - - -	—	—	627	605
	Northern Macquarie - -	—	—	461	461
	Bothwell - - -	—	—	1,406	1,406

No. 51.

RETURN of the AMOUNT and NUMBER of MORTGAGES on LAND registered in 1854 and 1855.

Year.	Mortgages registered.	Amount.
		£
1854 -	293	316,463
1855* -	299	329,714

* In this year 118,502*l.* were paid in satisfaction and discharge of Mortgages registered in former years; thus making the increase of debt 211,212*l.* only.

No. 52.

RETURN relative to the CONSERVANCY of the PEACE, 1854 and 1855.

	1854.	1855.
Country gentlemen - - -	113	110
Officers holding civil appointments - -	49	30
Merchants and bankers - - -	31	31
Naval and military officers, retired or on half pay - - - - -	20	36
Surgeons - - - -	15	26
Naval and military officers on full pay -	9	2
Clergymen - - - - -	9	—
Other gentlemen in the principal towns -	9	8
Barristers - - - - -	3	5
Total - - - -	258	248

[*Compiled from Official Records in the office of the Private Secretary by Hugh Munro Hull.*]

Encl. 2. in No. 38.

Enclosure 2. in No. 38.

FINGAL GOLD FIELDS.

Memorial to the Governor.

On Saturday a deputation consisting of Messrs. T. D. Chapman, M.L.C., A. H. Maning, and L. Roope, waited upon his Excellency at Government House, and presented him with the following address:—

To his Excellency Sir H. E. F. Young, &c. &c.

Hobart Town, May 15, 1856.

We, the undersigned merchants, bankers, and traders of Hobart Town, being deeply impressed that a paying gold-field would be of great benefit to this colony, more especially at the present time, and feeling satisfied that such is to be found at Fingal, take leave most respectfully to crave that your Excellency will, out of the public funds, defray the expenses of such an expedition to Fingal as will determine the existence or non-existence there of gold in quantity.

Signed by 116 persons.

We feel assured, that, in accordance with this request, your Excellency would be complying with the wish of almost the whole of the population on this side of the island, give to trade a great impetus, and generally satisfy the colonists at large.

Signed by 57 persons.

A similar address was also presented from the bankers, merchants, and traders of Launceston.

His Excellency received the deputation courteously, but intimated that he could take no steps in the matter until he had taken the advice of the Executive Council. From his Excellency's manner, however, the deputation were of opinion that he was favourable to the project.

Both addresses were numerously and influentially signed, and a much larger number of signatures would have been obtained had longer time been allowed for procuring them.

Mr. M'Naughtan was to have accompanied the deputation, but was unavoidably prevented.

GENTLEMEN, Colonial Secretary's Office, May 23, 1856.

I have the honour to inform you, that the Governor has had under consideration in the Executive Council your memorial to his Excellency of the 15th instant, together with a similar application from certain residents in Launceston, requesting that the expense of an expedition to Fingal, for the purpose of satisfactorily ascertaining the existence or otherwise of gold in quantity, may be defrayed from the public funds.

I reply, I am to acquaint you that the Governor, with the advice of the Executive Council, has decided upon acceding to your request, and has approved of a sum not exceeding 2,000*l.* being appropriated for the purpose; it having been represented by a deputation which waited on his Excellency that that sum will be sufficient to carry out the object of the memorialists.

It appears to his Excellency in Council that the whole direction and management of this enterprise may be properly intrusted to a Committee to be selected by the memorialists themselves, and to include one or more Government officers; and I am to suggest that you should place yourselves in communication with those gentlemen at Launceston who have also addressed his Excellency, in order to ascertain the views of the memorialists as to the

necessary steps which it may be requisite to take for carrying into effect the object desired.

I have the honour to be,
Gentlemen,
Your very obedient servant,
(Signed) W. CHAMP.

T. D. Chapman, Esq., and the other Gentlemen signing the memorial of the 15th instant.

Mr. Maning proposed that the thanks of the meeting be given to his Excellency the Governor and the Executive Council for their prompt attention to the memorial of the colonists.

Mr. Roope seconded this motion, which, like the former ones, was carried unanimously.

GOVERNMENT NOTICE.

No. 86.

Colonial Secretary's Office, May 31, 1856.

The Governor directs it to be notified, that, though in the uncertainty which exists as yet respecting the extent and richness of the gold-fields in this colony, the Government will not interfere in any way, for the present, with the operations of those who may desire to search for gold on land the property of the Crown, or discourage their efforts by the imposition of a licence fee,—it is yet considered necessary, with the view of obtaining accurate information as to the number of miners, and also of checking any excesses that may be committed by disorderly characters, that every person desirous of digging for gold shall register his name and ordinary place of abode at the police office of the district in which he wishes to carry on his operations; and, in order to enforce this regulation, no person will be permitted to dig on Crown land until he shall have conformed thereto.

By his Excellency's command,
W. CHAMP.

TASMANIAN GOLD FIELDS.

The Committee appointed to direct the disposal of the Government grant for 2,000*l.* to be expended in testing the extent and value of the Fingal gold fields, hereby notify,—

That, from and after Monday the 23d instant, practical diggers, to the number of one hundred, disposed to work in the Fingal gold-fields, will be supplied, free of cost, with tents, tools, and the following rations; viz.;—

14lbs. meat,
12lbs. flour,
6 oz. tea,
3lbs. sugar,

per man per week, on application to Mr. Robert Cox, of Fingal, the superintendent appointed by the Committee.

The diggers will be allowed all the gold they may find, and will also have the additional chance of obtaining the large reward (now in course of collection, and expected to amount to upwards of 10,000*l.*) offered to the discoverers of a profitable gold-field in Tasmania.

No licence fee nor export duty charged by the Government of Tasmania.

Coaches leave Hobart Town and Launceston direct for Fingal twice a week, and steamer weekly for Falmouth.

By order of the Committee,
(Signed) GEORGE WHITCOMBE,
Honorary Secretary

Royal Exchange, Hobart Town,
4th June, 1856.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA.

No. 39.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA.

No. 39.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor Sir R. G. MACDONNELL to the Right Hon. H. LABOUCHERE, M.P.

(No. 113.)

Government House, Adelaide, August 10, 1856.

SIR, (Received November 21, 1856.)

1. I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith the Blue Book of this colony for the year 1855. The greatly increased work in the Colonial Secretary's Office, occasioned by the protracted Session of 1855-6, which lasted till the 19th June, rendered it impossible to furnish me with the Blue Book till the 1st inst.

2. As I am under the necessity of leaving town immediately for some weeks, I am unwilling to add to the delay which has already occurred in the transmission of the Blue Book and the accompanying returns, by waiting for leisure to compile the usual explanatory Report with which it should be accompanied. I would regret this the more if a great portion of the year 1855, to which the enclosed returns refer, had not elapsed before my assumption of this Government.

3. As in some measure a substitute for the detailed Report, which for the above reasons I am unable on this occasion to supply, I transmit an abstract of the principal returns of the Blue Book, compiled by the Assistant Colonial Secretary, Mr. Hitchin, and which contains in a compendious form the information most necessary.

I have, &c.

(Signed) RICHARD GRAVES MACDONNELL,
Governor.

The Right Hon. Henry Labouchere,
&c. &c. &c.

Encl. in No. 39.

Enclosure in No. 39.

Enclosure to Despatch No. 113, of the 10th August 1856, from Governor Sir Richard Graves MacDonnell, C.B., to the Right Hon. the Secretary of State for the Colonies, being an epitome of the principal particulars detailed in the Blue Book of this colony for the year 1855, with additional information not included therein.

Population.

In the following table the actual population (exclusive of aborigines) on the 31st March 1855, as ascertained by the census taken on that date, is contrasted with the estimated population at the close of the year, as arrived at from official records kept for the purpose, viz :—

	Males.			Females.			Grand Totals.
	Under 14 years.	14 years and over.	Totals.	Under 14 years.	14 years and over.	Totals.	
31st March 1855, as per census - -	16,779	27,398	44,177	16,735	24,909	41,644	85,821
31st December 1855, as estimated - -	18,505	30,338	48,843	18,696	29,848	48,544	97,387

The foregoing tabular statement shews that the population was increased during the last three quarters of 1855, through the excess of immigration over emigration, and that of births over deaths, by no less than 11,566 souls.

It also makes apparent, that in obtaining that addition to the population, the sexual proportions of the inhabitants of the colony became very nearly equalized;

as explanatory of the cause of which it may be stated that a great number of the Government immigrants sent here by the Emigration Commissioners during the period in question, were single Irish females.

The following is a summarized recapitulation of that portion of the census abstract which describes the occupations followed by the colonists at the date of its compilation, viz. :—

Professional persons, 769 (including 108 persons described as "engineers," many of whom are probably working engineers); ministers of religion, 97; merchants, 269; clerks, 447; retail dealers, trades, and handicrafts, 5,296; farmers and stockholders, 5,558; farm labourers, shepherds, and stockmen, 6,443; publicans, 353; miners, 840; carriers, 391; gardeners, 393; domestic servants of both sexes, 4,126; mariners and fishermen, 338; other persons male and female, including 632 not able to be classified for want of returns, 60,501.

The births, marriages, and deaths, officially registered in 1855 and in the preceding year, were in number respectively as follows :—

	Births.	Marriages.	Deaths.
In 1854 - -	3,451	928	1,346
In 1855 - -	3,944	629	1,663

The deaths registered in 1855 may be classified as under :—

Under 2 years of age - - - -	885
Over 2 and under 10 years - -	186
Over 10 and under 30 years - - -	196
Over 30 and under 50 years - -	219
Over 50 years of age - - -	112
Ages unknown - - - - -	65
Total - - -	1,663

Annexed is a copy of the Registrar General's return exhibiting the causes of the deaths registered in Adelaide only; those received from the country districts not containing statements enabling the return to be made complete. Appendix A. (being very voluminous, is not printed).

Seventy-six coroner's inquests were holden on deceased persons during the year, but the deaths of only seventy-one of those persons were registered prior to the 31st December.

The verdicts recorded have been classified under the following heads, viz. :—

Accidental deaths - - - -	22
Apoplexy - - - - -	4
Coup de soleil -	2
Natural causes - -	13
Poison - - - -	7
Manslaughter - -	2
Murder - - - -	3
Visitation of God - - - -	4
Not specially recorded -	14
	71

Pauperism.

The deficient harvest of 1854 caused the number of persons supported at the cost of the public during the first half of 1855 to be considerably beyond the average number of the recipients of relief previous to that time; and, as the influx of immigrants in the succeeding half year was in excess of the immediate demand for labour, the numbers receiving relief were further largely augmented during that period.

The following extracts from the records will serve to illustrate the extent of the temporary increase of destitution, viz. :—

The number of persons on the books of the Destitute Board were,—

	In door.	Out door.	Totals.
On the 31st December 1854 -	—	—	254
On the 30th June 1855 - -	261	915	1,176
On the 31st December 1855 -	279	1,013	1,292

SOUTH AUSTRALIA.

The total numbers relieved during the years 1854 and 1855 were severally,—

		No.
In 1854		685
In 1855, half year ended 30th June	2,025	5,387
„ „ 31st December	3,362	

In order to assist in disburthening the Government from the duty of supporting the unemployed adult male immigrants, they were offered work at a Government quarry near Adelaide, with remuneration at the rate of 4*s.*, 3*s.* 6*d.*, or 3*s.* per diem, according to ability; that wage having been decided on as being the minimum rate upon which working men could subsist, and as therefore not interfering with the natural action of the labour market.

The plan was found to work well, and the immigrants were gradually engaged by private employers.

Crime, Misdemeanors, and Litigation.

The number of convictions in the Supreme Court during the year were	77
The number of criminal trials (not being felonies), assaults, misdemeanors, and cases of drunkenness, heard and determined at local courts in the colony in 1855, were	2,051
The number of information under Acts of Council heard and determined	1,670
The number of causes on the civil side heard and determined (the number of plaints entered was, of course, much greater)	2,410

No criminal execution took place in South Australia, during 1855.

Diseases and Climate.

Hospital.—The total number of patients admitted into the Adelaide Hospital in the year 1855 was—

	Males.	Females.	Total.
Without payment of fees	280	262	
With ditto	59	5	
	339	267	606
The number of admissions in 1854 having been	464	113	577
Of those patients, the number who died were,			
in 1854	42	23	65
in 1855	45	36	81

The average duration of the stay of patients in hospital was—

	In 1854.	In 1855.
In cases of acute disease	23 days.	24½ days.
„ chronic „	98 „	103½ „

The average daily cost of each patient was, in 1854, 1*s.* 9½*d.*; and in 1855, 2*s.* 1¼*d.*

	Male.	Female.
Lunatic Asylum.—The average daily number of lunatics treated during 1854 was	22	16
Of whom there remained in charge on 1st January 1855	22	14
The average daily number having been increased in 1855, by admissions, to	38	22

The number of lunatics who died in confinement in 1854 were 7; and in 1855, 11.

The average daily cost of each lunatic was 1*s.* 9⅕*d.* during 1854, and 1*s.* 7¼*d.* in 1855.

Meteorological.—The extreme range of the barometer in Adelaide, at the hours of 10½ a.m. and 3½ p.m., extended from 30·96 in March, to 29.18 in April; the general averages of the twelve months giving the following result:—

Maximum.	Mean.	Minimum.
30.28	30.09	29.64

The temperature varied in Adelaide, during the above-named five hours, at its greatest extreme, from 108° in January to 50° in August; the general averages of the year working out to—

Maximum.	Mean.	Minimum.
°	°	°
80	67·94	59·45

The total rain-fall in Adelaide during the year amounted to 22·32 inches; the greatest fall in any one month having been 3·76 inches in May; and January having been the only month without rain, even on the Adelaide plains.

Agriculture.

A greater extent of land was under cultivation in 1855 than in any preceding year, and the harvest was a favourable one, the wheat crop having been estimated as averaging about 18 bushels to the acre. No statistics were collected.

The exportation of hay to Victoria, which had been so prominent a feature during the two preceding years, only amounted, in 1855, to 372½ tons, valued at 3,614*l.*; the exports of that article having been, in 1853, 3,167¼ tons, value 38,082*l.*; and in 1854, 5,326½ tons, value 83,289*l.*

The total comparative declared values of grain and other farm and dairy produce of the colony, exported in 1854 and 1855, were as follows:—

	1854.	1855.
Butter - -	£5,562	£1,231
Cheese - -	266	154
Corn and meal -	316,267	237,135
Eggs - - -	323	42
Hay - -	83,289	3,614
Potatoes - -	2,432	5
	£408,139	£242,181

The following were the Adelaide prices of—

	Fine flour, per ton of 2,000lbs.	Wheat, per bushel.	Oats, per bushel.	Barley, English, per bushel.	Potatoes, per ton.	Hay, per ton.
1854:	£ s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Maximum - -	33 0 0	14 0	9 9	9 3	45 0 0	11 11 0
Average - -	30 10 0	12 0	8 6	9 0	35 0 0	9 5 0
1855:						
Maximum - -	48 0 0	21 0	7 9	10 0	30 0 0	10 10 0
Average - -	41 0 0	15 6	6 9	8 0	23 0 0	8 0 0

Bread at Adelaide ranged, in 1854, from 3*d.* to 4*d.* per lb., the average price being 4*d.* per lb.; in 1855, from 3*d.* to 6*d.* per lb., the average price being 4¾*d.* per lb.

Imports and Exports.

The values of articles imported and exported (exclusive of bullion and coin) during the years 1854 and 1855, were—

Imports:—1854 - 2,054,453*l.* - - 1855 - 1,355,784*l.*
Exports:—1854 - 823,104*l.* - - 1855 - 839,915*l.*

It is, however, necessary, that the values of those exports should be subdivided as under, viz.:—

	1854.	1855.
Value of staple produce of South Australia -	£694,422	£686,953
,, imports re-exported (other than bullion and coin) - - -	128,682	152,962
	£823,104	£839,915

SOUTH AUSTRALIA.

And, in order to arrive at the gross import and export totals, the following amounts must be added, as representing the value of the bullion and coin imported and exported:—

Imported:—1854 - 92,654*l.* - - 1855 - 15,154*l.*
Exported:—1854 - 499,718*l.* - - 1855 - 148,300*l.*

Of the above stated values of staple produce, the principal items (other than those ascribed to farm produce, which have been herein quoted under the head "Agriculture") appear, by the Customs returns, to have been—

	1854.		1855.
Tallow - - -	£533	- -	£368
Wool - - -	182,419	- -	243,504
Copper and copper ore -	94,706	- -	150,027
Lead and lead ore -	425	- -	3,730

The tonnage of vessels entered inwards and outwards was as follows:—

	Great Britain.	British Colonies.	Foreign States.	Totals.	Grand Totals.
1854:	*Tons.*	*Tons.*	*Tons.*	*Tons.*	*Tons.*
Inwards - -	60,369	78,916	7,381	146,666	290,534
Outwards - -	8,394	102,892	32,582	143,868	
1855:					
Inwards - -	55,040	40,163	10,639	105,842	212,811
Outwards - -	6,382	65,068	35,519	106,969	

Exchanges, &c.

During the years 1854 and 1855 the variations in the course of exchange, as taken from the operations of the three banks at Adelaide, were—

	Year 1854.		Year 1855.	
	Maximum.	Minimum.	Maximum.	Minimum.
Bank drafts on London, at 30 days' sight, issued at - -	5 per cent. prem., in 4th quarter.	1 per cent. prem., in 1st quarter.	4 per cent. prem., in 3rd quarter.	2 per cent. prem., in 2nd quarter.
Bills on London, at 30 days' sight, purchased at -	2 per cent. prem., in 3rd and 4th quarters.	1 per cent. disct., in 1st quarter.	2 per cent. prem., in 3rd quarter.	Par, in 2nd quarter.
Bank drafts on the neighbouring colonies, at 3 days' sight, issued at - -	1 per cent. prem., in 3rd and 4th quarters.	¼ per cent. prem., in 1st quarter.	1½ per cent. prem., in 4th quarter.	1 per cent. prem., in 3 first quarters.
Bills on the neighbouring colonies, at 15 days' sight, purchased at - - -	2 per cent. disct., in 3rd and 4th quarters.	1 per cent. disct., in 1st quarter.	1 per cent. disct., 3 last quarters.	Par, in 1st quarter.

The contrast between the bank notes in circulation and the bullion and coin in the bank coffers during 1855, shews as follows:—

The average total of the paper currency of the three local banks in circulation during 1855 was - - £228,917 0 0
The average value of the specie and gold bullion in their coffers during that year was - - - 735,234 0 0

Revenue and Expenditure.

The revenues of the colony during the years 1854 and 1855 amounted to—

	1854.	1855.
Ordinary revenue	£200,774 8 5	£186,233 7 3
Land fund revenue	394,581 6 3	272,316 15 6
Total	595,355 14 8	458,550 2 9
To which may be added amounts received as proceeds of bonds sold	104,654 5 0	45,700 0 0
Total receipts of years	£700,010 19 8	£504,250 2 9

The expenditure reached—

	In 1854.	In 1855.
As charges against the ordinary revenue (exclusive of expenditure to defray which loans have been specially sanctioned by Acts)	£328,884 4 3	£274,495 0 3
Land fund charges, as far as known in the colony	93,524 14 9	420,109 18 8
Or a total of	422,408 19 0	694,604 18 11
To which may be added the expenditure under Loan Acts for the City and Port Railway, the Gawler Town Railway, and for harbour improvements	64,404 0 1	115,722 9 9
Total	£486,812 19 1	£810,327 8 8

It will thus be seen that the large balances remaining in hand on the 1st January 1855, were for the most part expended during that year.

Provision was made in the estimates of 1855 for the transfer of a sum of 60,000*l.* from the Crown moiety of the land fund to the ordinary revenue in aid of the cost of public works, being the course adopted during several past years, in order to bring those works into the ordinary estimates, and thus place them under the control of the legislature; but the state of that fund did not permit of that transfer being effected.

At the close of the year 1855 the loan account was indebted to the treasurer for advances made in excess of the value of bonds sold, in the sum of 31,771*l.* 4*s.* 10*d.*

The total balance in hand on the 31st December 1855 (irrespective of the immigration moiety of the land fund) was	£96,967 5 8
And the estimated charges against that balance, brought forward in estimates as authorized to be expended in 1856	81,220 9 8
Leaving available as an addition to revenue of 1856	£15,746 16 0

Education.

The licensing of teachers desirous of becoming recipients of the Government aid, and the supervision of their schools, is still vested in the Central Board of Education, a body constituted under Act No. 20 of 1851.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA.

The stipends paid to teachers (irrespective of the temporary increase of 50 per cent.) are 40*l*., 50*l*., or 60*l*. per annum, according to the capability of the teacher.

The number of licensed schools and teachers had increased from 125, with 5,464 pupils, at close of 1854, to 138, with 5,776 pupils, at close of 1855.

The education of these children cost (official salaries included), in 1854, 3*l*. 5*s*. 1½*d*. per head, of which the state contributed 1*l*. 15*s*. 5¾*d*. and the friends of the children 1*l*. 9*s*. 7¾*d*.; whilst the cost in 1855 was 3*l*. 8*s*. 7¼*d*. per head, of which the state contributed 1*l*. 18*s*. 10½*d*. and the friends of the children 1*l*. 9*s*. 8¾*d*.

The total sum expended by this Government in 1855 for educational purposes amounted to 11,127*l*. 8*s*. 3*d*.

The Board expends 1000*l*. per annum, in sums not exceeding 200*l*., as aid towards the erection of district schools.

The number of private and unlicensed schools in the province has never been accurately ascertained, but the Education Board have expressed their belief that they form fully two fifths of the entire number of schools, and they thereupon estimate the total number of children receiving education in South Australia at 10,065, or a proportion of about 1 to 9 of the entire population.

Ecclesiastical.

The following is an abstract of the returns supplied by ministers of religion as statements of the average number of persons actually attending their respective ministrations, viz.:—

Church of England.	Church of Rome.	Lutheran Church.	Presbyterians.	Congregationalists, being Independents and Baptists	Wesleyans.	Other denominations of Dissenters.	Jews.
3,870	2,880	1,950	1,358	2,938	8,895	2,680	30

But the information voluntarily supplied on the census forms, at the request of the Government, gives, as the numbers of persons professing to hold those religious tenets respectively, the following:—

33,812	8,335	6,151	7,120	5,355	11,178	7,118	405

Land Sales and Surveys.

The area of land surveyed for sale in South Australia, and laid out in sections varying from a square mile of country land to a town allotment of a quarter of an acre during 1855, was 340,614½ acres. The area sold during the year was 171,610 acres, which was conveyed to purchasers by 1,603 grants, and realized prices averaging, for lands sold by auction, 1*l*. 9*s*. 10$\frac{6}{10}$*d*. per acre; lands submitted to auction and afterwards privately sold, partly at the upset price and partly at the price bid, but not paid, 1*l*. 0*s*. 3$\frac{2}{10}$*d*.

Appendix B. (Returns 1 to 4, being very voluminous, are not printed.)

For more detailed particulars, vide the Surveyor General's Report and returns, Nos. 1 to 4, accompanying.

Crown Lands.

Thirty-two additional fourteen years leases of runs were issued during 1855, under which the extent of waste land held is 1,357 square miles; that held under the 365 leases issued from 1st July 1851 to 1st July 1854, inclusive, being 18,900 square miles; making a total area leased of 20,257 square miles. But from that quantity must be deducted, as the area of land since resumed for sale, or for the creation of hundreds, 1,697¼ square miles, leaving still let 18,559¾ square miles, the actual rental received from which, in 1855, was 10,419*l*. 10*s*.

228 square miles of waste lands within the hundreds were let in 1855, under annual leases, at a rent of 20*s*. per square mile.

A sum of 1,074*l.* 18*s.* was received in 1855 for timber licences and depasturing certificates, issued by Government in respect of waste lands not within the limits of proclaimed District Councils.

Licences were taken out at the Echunga gold field during the whole twelve months of 1855; the maximum monthly issue having been 217 in January, and the minimum 28 in June.

Postal.

The post office business may be seen in the following table, which exhibits the number of letters and newspapers passing through it, distinguishing ship from inland, viz.:—

Number of Post Offices.	Letters.		Newspapers.		Totals.	
	Ship.	Inland.	Ship.	Inland.	Letters.	Newspapers.
87	273,778	405,509	328,766	466,275	676,287	795,041

The post office revenue was 7,841*l.* 6*s.* 8*d.*, and the expenditure 15,032*l.* 17*s.* 5*d.*

The following return was compiled for, and ordered to be printed by, the Legislative Council.

RETURN showing the Time occupied in the Transmission of the various English Contract Packet Mails to this Colony, and also to Melbourne, en route, since the cessation of the Peninsular and Oriental Company's Contract.

Name of Vessel.	Date of Departure from England.	Date of Arrival at			
		Melbourne, en route.	Days occupied.	Adelaide.	Days occupied.
James Baines	8 Dec. 1854	12 Feb. 1855	66	17 Feb. 1855	71
Lightning	5 January 1855	20 March 1855	74	24 March 1855	78
Boomerang	6 February 1855	11 May 1855	94	18 May 1855	101
Blue Jacket	5 March 1855	13 May 1855	69	21 May 1855	77
Marco Polo	5 April 1855	26 June 1855	82	30 June 1855	86
Oliver Lang	5 May 1855	31 July 1855	87	11 August 1855	98
Donald M'Kay	5 June 1855	26 August 1855	82	4 Sept. 1855	91
Champion of the Seas	5 July 1855	26 Sept. 1855	83	3 October 1855	90
Ben Nevis	20 June 1855	4 October 1855	106	14 October 1855	116
Shalimar	20 July 1855	16 October 1855	88	21 October 1855	93
James Baines	5 August 1855	23 October 1855	79	26 October 1856	82
Emma	21 August 1855	17 Nov. 1855	88	23 Nov. 1855	94
Lightning	5 Sept. 1855	25 Nov. 1855	81	1 Dec. 1855	87
Red Jacket	20 Sept. 1855	4 Dec. 1855	75	9 Dec. 1855	80
Schomberg	5 October 1855	Wrecked 26 Dec. 1855	84	6 January 1856	93
Sultana	21 October 1855	12 January 1856	83	19 January 1856	90
Ocean Chief	6 Nov. 1855	25 January 1856	80	1 Feb. 1856	87
Mermaid	20 Nov. 1855	10 Feb. 1856	82	15 Feb. 1856	87
Marco Polo	5 Dec. 1855	26 Feb. 1856	83	2 March 1856	88
Being an average of			82½ days		89 days.

Public Works.

The sum expended in 1855 through the department of the Colonial Architect, in public works, buildings, and improvements, amounted to 81,597*l.* 17*s.*; but the total outlay of the colony under that head, during the year, was 173,376*l.* 4*s.* 4*d.*

The last-mentioned sum, however, includes the following special payments:—To corporation of Adelaide, for streets, 7,014*l.* 3*s.* 6*d.*,—to Central Road Board,

SOUTH AUSTRALIA.

for main roads and bridges, 58,400*l.*,—in aid of District Councils revenue, 11,810*l.* 6*s.* 7*d.*

Progress of Public Improvements under the Management of Boards, &c.

Four *Municipal Corporations* had been constituted in South Australia prior to the close of 1855, viz.:—That of the city of Adelaide, the assessment amounting to 160,598*l.*; that of the townships of Kensington and Norwood, the assessment being 14,842*l.*, at a shilling rate; that of the township of Glenelg, and that of the township of Port Adelaide, which were not in active operation during 1855.

Thirty-four *District Councils* had also been proclaimed up to the same date, whose united revenue, inclusive of the Government aid, was in 1855, 24,636*l.* 6*s.* 9*d.*

The *Central Board of Main Roads* had at their command in 1855,—

	£	s.	d.
An unexpended balance from the previous year of -	33,733	19	6
And payments by Government during the year to the extent of - - - - -	58,400	0	0
	£92,133	19	6

The ways and means of the *Trinity Board of Port Adelaide* amounted to 21,595*l.* 9*s.* 2*d.*

The *Harbour Improvement Trust* were furnished by Government with funds, in anticipation of the sale of bonds to the extent of 13,800*l.*

The Adelaide City and Port Railway had advanced nearly to completion in 1855 (having since been opened for traffic on the 21st April 1856).

In immediate connexion with this line, though not under the control of the Railway Board, was being constructed the Government Magnetic Telegraph (also since in operation).

The construction of the Adelaide and Gawler Town Railway was rapidly urged on during 1855, and the Commissioners very confidently anticipate the opening of the line as far as Salisbury (a distance of 16 miles), and also of the branch to the Dry Creek Labour Prison Stone Quarry, before the close of 1856.

This tramway is not managed by a Board, but by a Government department.

The revenue of the Port Elliot and Goolwa Tramway was, in the year 1855, including warehouse and wharfage dues, 1,267*l.* 11*s.* 11*d.*, being at the rate of 25 per cent. increase upon the rate of traffic of the nine months during which it was in operation in 1854.

Working in connexion with this tramway is the River Murray Navigation Company's fleet of steamers and barges, which ply as high up the river as Albury, so long as the depth of water in the channel permits.

Legislation.

Of the thirty-two public and three private Acts passed in the Session which commenced on the 1st November 1855, and which was not terminated until the 19th June 1856, only three were reserved by the Governor for the signification of Her Majesty's pleasure, viz., the Governor's Salary Act, No. 1; the New Constitution Act, No. 2; and the Amended Alien Act, No. 8.

Hereunder is a schedule of the titles, &c., of the Acts passed the Council, duplicate copies of which have been transmitted to Downing Street, accompanied by copies of the opinions given by the Advocate General on each for the Governor's guidance.

No. 1.—An Act to make further provision respecting the salary of the Governor of South Australia. [Reserved, December 26, 1855.]

No. 2.—An Act to establish a Constitution for South Australia, and to grant a Civil List to Her Majesty. [Reserved, January 4, 1856.]

No. 3.—An Act to amend the Law relating to Registering of Births, Deaths, and Marriages in the Province of South Australia. [Assented to, February 1, 1856.]

No. 4.—An Act to give a preferable lien on Wool, from season to season, make Mortgages of Sheep, Cattle, and Horses valid, without delivery to the Mortgagee. [Assented to, March 5, 1856.]

No. 5.—An Act to amend a certain Provision of the Act No. 11 of 1849, "To constitute a Municipal Corporation for the City of Adelaide." [Assented to, March 5, 1856.]

No. 6.—An Act to regulate the collection and distribution of Duties upon Goods intended for consumption in the Colonies of New South Wales and Victoria, carried by way of the River Murray. [Assented to, March 5, 1856.]

No. 7.—An Act to consolidate and amend the Laws relating to the conveyance and transfer of Real and Personal Property vested in Mortgagees and Trustees. [Assented to, April 2, 1856.]

No. 8.—An Act to amend the Laws relating to Aliens. [Reserved, March 20, 1856.]

No. 9.—An Act to give further Remedies to Creditors against Persons removing from one Australasian Colony to another. [Assented to, April 2, 1856]

No. 10.—An Act to provide for the Election of Members to serve in the Parliament of South Australia. [Assented to, April 2, 1856.]

No. 11.—An Act to enable any Commissioner of the Court of Insolvency, although not named in a fiat, to prosecute the same, and to exercise and carry into effect the powers and authorities thereof. [Assented to, April 16, 1856.]

No. 12.—An Act to amend an Ordinance, No. 13, 1851, for the declaring of Main Lines of Road in South Australia. [Assented to, May 26, 1856.]

No. 13.—An Act to make provision for establishing a Monthly Mail Communication between the Province of South Australia and Great Britain. [Assented to, May 26, 1856.]

No. 14.—An Act to alter and amend an Ordinance, intituled, "An Act to regulate the retail of Liquors and to preserve good order in licensed Public Houses." [Assented to, May 28, 1856.]

No. 15.—An Act to make provision for the more effectual protection of Railways and Electric Telegraphs. [Assented to, June 18, 1856.]

No. 16.—An Act to establish and incorporate an institution to be called "The South Australian Institute." [Assented to, June 18, 1856.]

No. 17.—An Act to provide for the Punishment, Custody, and Employment of Prisoners sentenced to hard labour and penal servitude. [Assented to, June 18, 1856.]

No. 18.—An Act to amend the Laws relating to the Corporation of the City of Adelaide, and also to regulate the slaughtering of Sheep, Calves, Swine, and Goats in the said City, and to prevent certain Nuisances therein. [Assented to, June 18, 1856.]

No. 19.—An Act for the further Appropriation of the Revenue for the Years one thousand eight hundred and fifty-four and one thousand eight hundred and fifty-five, and for the General Appropriation of the Revenue for the Year one thousand eight hundred and fifty-six. [Assented to, June 18, 1856.]

No. 20.—An Act further to amend an Ordinance, No. 13 of 1851, for the declaring of Main Lines of Road in South Australia. [Assented to, June 18, 1856.]

No. 21.—An Act to amend "An Act to make provision against the danger of Bush and other Fires." [Assented to, June 18, 1856.]

No. 22.—An Act to declare the legal operation of Land Grants made to deceased persons. [Assented to, June 18, 1856.]

No. 23.—An Act to amend the Law relating to the Registration of Land Grants, and to provide for the prepayment of Registration Fees chargeable thereon. [Assented to, June 18, 1856.]

No. 24.—An Act for the further amendment of the Process, Practice, and Mode of Pleading of the Supreme Court. [Assented to, June 18, 1856.]

No. 25.—An Act to provide for the Registration of Joint Stock Companies, and for Limiting the Liability of Members thereof. [Assented to, June 18, 1856.]

No. 26.—An Act to amend the "Lands Clauses Consolidation Act." [Assented to, June 19, 1856.]

No. 27.—An Act to authorize the Appointment of South Australian Railway Commissioners, and to vest in them the construction of the Adelaide City and Port Railway, and of the Adelaide and Gawler Town Railway, and to authorize the raising of a further sum of Thirty-six thousand Pounds for the completion of the Adelaide City and Port Railway. [Assented to, June 19, 1856.]

No. 28.—An Act to provide for the Water Supply and Drainage of the City of Adelaide. [Assented to, June 19, 1856.]

No. 29.—An Act for the further amendment of "An Act to prevent the extension of the Scab in Sheep, and to make provision for the destruction of Sheep infected with that disorder." [Assented to, June 19, 1856.]

No. 30.—An Act to facilitate actions against Persons absent from the Colony, and against Persons sued as Joint Contractors. [Assented to, June 19, 1856.]

No. 31.—An Act to consolidate the several Ordinances relating to the Establishment of the Supreme Court of the Province of South Australia. [Assented to, June 19, 1856.]

No. 32.—An Act to make further provisions for the Election of Members to serve in the Parliament of South Australia. [Assented to, June 19, 1856.]

SOUTH AUSTRALIA.

Private Acts.

An Act to secure to James Hadden Young, for the residue of a term of fourteen years, the exclusive right to use, within the Province of South Australia, certain improvements in the construction of Railways. [Assented to, June 18, 1856.]

An Act to enable John Finnis, George Stevenson, Charles Mann, and Ludavina Cameron Kingston, Hester Holland Kingston, Charlotte Julia Kingston, Strickland Gough Kingston, and Charles Cameron Kingston (the Five Infant Children of George Strickland Kingston, of Adelaide, in the Province of South Australia, Esquire, by his late Wife Ludavina Catharina da Silva Cameron Kingston, deceased), to convey to Allen Bell, in fee simple, the Section of Land, numbered 4,448 in the Special Survey in the said Province called the Mount Barker Special Survey, and to declare the Trusts of the purchase money for the same land. [Assented to, June 18, 1856.]

An Act to define and extend the powers of the Trustees under the Will of Michael Featherstone, deceased, and to provide for the better management of the Testator's Estate. [Assented to, June 19, 1856.]

Immigration.

Appendix C.

Annexed is the Annual Report by the Immigration Agent, whereby it appears that the total number of immigrants landed in the colony during the years 1853-4-5 respectively, were—

In 1853, 14 vessels brought	-	-	4,583 souls.
„ 1854, 30 „ „	-	-	8,824 „
„ 1855, 39 „ „	-	-	11,871 „

Very detailed information on the subject will be found in the Report.

EDW. WM. HITCHIN,
Assistant Colonial Secretary.

August 23, 1856.

(Appendix A, being very voluminous, is not printed.)

Appendix B.

Survey.—South Australia.

General Report accompanying the Returns for the year 1855.

Surveyor-General's Office, Adelaide, April 10, 1856.

Land Department.

Sir,

I have the honour to report, that during the year 1855 the department sold 171,610a., 1r. 29p., showing a decrease compared with the year 1854 of 42,314a. 2r. 20p.

Progress of Fieldwork.

A slight increase in the number of field parties took place during the year, which enabled me to survey 390,915 acres, of which 340,614½ were new surveys laid out for sale in sections (varying in size from the maximum of 640 acres to town allotments of ¼ acre), 11,273¾ are new roads, 36,255¾ are resurveys of old sections, 910½ are old roads, and 1,860½ are reserves for water, stone, and other purposes.

Expenses of Fieldwork.

The actual cost of the above, with every expense contingent thereupon, such as the salaries of temporary surveyors, regimental and working pay, gratuity and allowances of the detachment of Royal Sappers and Miners, wages of bullock-drivers and labourers, maintenance and repair of camp equipage, surveying instruments, transports, and supplying casualties in the field, is 12,776*l.* 11*s.* 11*d.*, which amount includes the expense of valuation of improvements on leased lands resumed, which duty has been transferred to this office from that of the Commissioner of Crown Lands, making the cost of the fieldwork $7\frac{84}{100}d.$, being $\frac{84}{100}$ in excess of that of last year. The above expenditure is 3,610*l.* 13*s.* 7*d.* more than the previous year 1854.

Expense of Survey Department.

The whole expense for this department for the year is 16,891*l.* 15*s.* 0*d.* showing that the cost of superintendence, field-work, mapping, compilation of weekly land sales lists, monthly and quarterly returns of lands sold at public auction and by private contract, the

preparation of 1,467 land grants, attendance on the public for elucidation of plans and for general information concerning the survey and sale of lands, is $10\frac{37}{100}d.$ per acre, or $\frac{47}{100}$ of a penny in excess of the total average per acre for 1854, whilst 76,966 acres were surveyed in 1855 in excess of that surveyed during the preceding year. In this total sum is included the half salary of the late Deputy Surveyor General in England whilst on leave of absence.

Hundreds and Counties.

No additional hundreds or counties have been proclaimed during the year.

New Townships.

A township to be called Blanche Town, consisting of 126 allotments, nearly all ½ acre blocks, has been laid out; this township is at the point where the Adelaide and Moorunde road first meets the river Murray.

Survey of Roads.

During this year roads were laid out through three special surveys, viz., the "Burra," "Princess Royal," and the "Mount Barker," the lands of which were granted with a right of resumption by the Crown to enter upon and possess the several roads and reserves conceived to be necessary for public utility and convenience.

The commencement of the survey of a main line of road from Port Elliot to Yankalilla, from Strachalbyn to Mitang, and some roads in the North, and a main line from Gawler Town northerly towards Port Wakefield.

Visits of Inspection.

The usual visits of inspection to the field survey parties have been made by myself and the first assistant to Surveyor General.

Sale by Public Auction and Private Contract.

There were sold in 1855, by public auction, 124,564A. 1R. 29P. at an average of 1*l.* 9*s.* $10\frac{6}{10}d.$ per acre, or 186,077*l.* 10*s.* 0*d.*; by private contract, 47,046 acres at an average of 1*l.* 0*s.* $3\frac{2}{10}d.$ or 47,667*l.* 11*s.* 0*d.*, making a total of 233,745*l.* 1*s.* 0*d.*

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. FREELING,
Capt. R.E.,
Surveyor General.

The Honourable the Colonial Secretary.

APPENDIX C.

REPORT from IMMIGRATION AGENT, on ASSISTED IMMIGRATION during 1855, with STATISTICAL RETURNS.

SIR, Immigration Office, Port Adelaide, February 18, 1856.

I HAVE the honour to forward, for the information of his Excellency the Governor-in-Chief, Statistical Returns of Assisted Immigration for the year 1855, consisting of ten tables, successively marked A. to K.*

Comparing the first of these returns, marked A., with the corresponding returns for the two previous years, his Excellency will perceive that greatly increased assisted immigration has taken place.

The Government immigrants landed alive in the colony during these three years were:—

In 1853, in 14 ships	4,583
1854 „ 30 „	8,824
1855 „ 39 „	11,871

The average number of deaths, expressed by decimals, in ships chartered by the Commissioners, were:—

In 1853	·04102
1854	·02583
1855	·01162

During these three years the average number of deaths of children under seven years of age to the whole numbers of deaths were:—

In 1853	·74468
1854	·77192
1855	·73913

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* These returns, being very voluminous, are not printed.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA.

The average proportion of children under seven years to the whole numbers embarked and who were born during the voyage was:—

In 1853	·23459
1854	·17288
1855	·13556

The average proportion of deaths of children under seven to the number of that age who were embarked, and were born on the voyage, was:—

In 1853	·12511
1854	·11246
1855	·06265

The average number of infants embarked and born, when compared with the total souls embarked, were as follows:—

In 1853	·06439
1854	·05086
1855	·03924

The proportion of deaths of infants to the number of infants embarked and who were born at sea was:—

In 1853	·19333
1854	·17477
1855	·10967

By these calculations it is shown:—

1st. That the average mortality during the three years has diminished year by year.

2nd. That the average number of deaths of children under seven years to the deaths at all ages is very great, varying in the three years only from ·77192 to ·73913.

3rd. That the proportion of children under seven years to the total souls embarked has been gradually decreased from ·23459 to ·13556.

4th. That the proportion of deaths of children under seven to the number of that age embarked has decreased from ·12511 to ·06265.

5th. That the proportion of infants to the gross numbers embarked has, during the three years, diminished from ·06439 to ·03924.

6th. That the proportion of deaths of infants has decreased from ·19333 to ·10967.

Several causes may be supposed to have had an effect on the mortality, but I have reason to speak strongly of the anxiety which the Commissioners have evinced to adopt all reasonable suggestions for the improvement of the management or dietary of emigrant ships, and the great majority of those to whom the care of the emigrants was entrusted during the past year, either as surgeons or ship's officers, have faithfully and zealously and kindly watched over the emigrants entrusted to their care. To the diligent performance of the duty of these gentlemen, and to the improved dietary for young children lately introduced, I attribute the decreased mortality, more than to any alterations in the relative numbers of those embarked at different ages.

The average contract price during the year for the passage of each statute adult was 16*l.* 8*s.* being less than either of the two previous years.

The average number of days taken by ships to complete the voyage was:—

In 1850	105 days.
1851	106 „
1852	101 „
1853	105 „
1854	100 „
1855	98 „

Table marked B. shows the counties from which the emigrants have been selected.

In England, the counties from which the largest number of emigrants have been selected were Middlesex, Cornwall, Devonshire, and Somerset; then Surrey, Kent, and Lancashire.

In Scotland, the emigrants were chiefly selected from Inverness, Lanark, and Renfrew.

Clare, Tipperary, Cork, Kilkenny, Tyrone, Limerick, and Dublin have supplied us with the largest proportion of the Irish.

In Return C. the occupations of the immigrants, as stated in the official returns to the Commissioners, are given.

I regret to say that no dependence whatever can be placed on the return of the occupations of the single women; it is exceedingly incorrect.

Return D. gives the proportion of the immigrants at the different ages, distinguishing the sexes.

It appears that there was a gross majority of 2,933 females during the year.

However desirable it may be that the sexes should be equalized as much as possible in every colony, I may remark that, according to the last census, the disparity of the sexes is very trifling, the excess of males over females between the ages of fourteen and forty-five being only 1,153.

But, even supposing the disparity to be much greater than what it really is, surely, in trying to restore the equilibrium, some other considerations ought to be taken into account than the mere difference of sex.

Females sent to a colony such as this ought to have some such qualifications as would suit them to become the wives of young, active, industrious men; they ought to be cleanly in their habits and persons, and instructed in such household duties and have such education as would enable them to make their husbands' homes clean, comfortable, and orderly; but, on the contrary, the young women who have arrived here have been generally most ignorant of all household duties or household management, incongruous in habits, education, and religious faith to the colonists at large.

I would be most unwilling to say anything to injure those who have already arrived, for I believe that, so far as morality and general propriety of conduct and kind-heartedness is concerned, they would bear a comparison with any like number that could be selected from any country in the world, or from any class of society. This is all well, but something more is wanted.

Return E. gives a tabular view of the different religious persuasions of the emigrants by each ship during the year, distinguishing males and females.

The proportions belonging to each denomination are as follows:—

Church of England	·42212
Roman Catholics	·36787
Church of Scotland	·05719
Free Church of Scotland	·02729
Wesleyan Methodists	·05837
Other Protestants	·06705
Jews	·00008

The proportion of males and females of each denomination seem to bear a close approximation in all save the Roman Catholics, of whom the proportion of females was ·73666, while that of males was ·26334.

Return F. shows the state of education of the immigrants by each ship, distinguishing the ages of the people. Regarding this return, it may be said that the great majority of those who can read only are persons who though they can possibly read individual words, can make little or no sense of continuous sentences; so that, as far as the object of being able to read is concerned, it is in such persons not attained.

The proportion of such as could read and write to the whole number of immigrants was:—

In 1853	·44555
1854	·49422
1855	·47561

The proportion of all the immigrants above fourteen years of age who could read and write was:—

In 1853	·60365
1854	·61480
1855	·55845

Return G. is a form suggested by his Excellency the Governor-in-Chief, to show at one view a classified return of all immigrants, adults, and children, married and single, males and females, and the countries from which they were selected. By this we see that the proportions are:—

From England	·47729
Ireland	·43079
Scotland	·09190

By the same return we find that 4,049 single women arrived. Of these the proportions were:—

From England	·21091
Ireland	·73524
Scotland	·05384

From this we see that the immigration of young women from Ireland has more than doubled the gross number from England and Scotland together.

Return H. contains a classified table giving particulars regarding only the single women who arrived during the year.

By this table we find that of the 4,049 single women who have arrived, of fourteen years and upwards, the numbers who could read and write were 1,839, being in the decimal proportion ·45418.

The proportions, according to religious persuasions, were:—

Roman Catholics	·62731
Church of England	·26549
Church of Scotland	·03210
Free Church of Scotland	·02074
Wesleyan Methodists	·02025
Other Protestants	·03383

At present there are two modes adopted, by either of which persons may nominate and assist the passages of emigrants to South Australia. The regulations were published in the Government Gazette of March 22, 1855.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA.

To acquire the right of nomination in virtue of purchase of land, payments are required of certain small sums :—For married agricultural labourers, shepherds, herdsmen, miners, and their wives, and the wives of persons now in the colony, if under forty-five years, 1*l.*; married journeymen, mechanics, and artisans, 2*l.*; single men, 2*l.*; children under fourteen years, 10*s.*

The nomination without the purchase of land requires the payment of larger sums :— Agricultural labourers, shepherds, miners, female domestic and farm servants, and their families, 4*l.* per statute adult, if under forty-five years; other immigrants and their families, 8*l.*; wives or children of emigrants now in the colony, 4*l.* per statute adult.

The regulations in virtue of purchase of land were framed with the view of enabling the purchasers of land to nominate their own labourers.

The regulations without purchase of land were framed to enable colonists, by the payment of a moderate sum, to nominate friends or relatives in Britain, the payments being made such as to afford a sufficient guarantee that the persons so nominated would be really desirable colonists, it being supposed that when individuals here were willing to advance 4*l.* for each adult, that it would be a better certificate of character than any which could be procured by the Commissioners at home.

But the right of nomination, in virtue of the purchase of land, has not been used for the purposes originally intended, but has become a matter of traffic in the market, so that land agents and others sell the right of nomination for small sums, which enables persons to nominate for free passages their friends or relatives at home who are in destitute circumstances, knowing well, from experience, that there is a certainty here of the nominees being supported by Government if they should fail to procure employment.

I do not consider that the small payment of twenty or thirty shillings is sufficient; and the Commissioners at home are, I doubt not, unwilling to throw any obstacles in the way of those who are nominated.

The number of those nominated during the year 1855 in virtue of purchase of land was 1,786, while the number nominated without the purchase of land was only twenty.

The right of nomination without the purchase of land has virtually become a dead letter, and the facility of obtaining, by the payment of a few shillings, a nomination under a land order, has been adopted, without any reference to the object for which that regulation was originally made.

The return marked I. is a classified table of those who arrived in the year 1855, in virtue of the purchase of land. By this return, we find that the total number which arrived was 1387; the proportions from the three Kingdoms, expressed in decimals, were :—

From England	·45205
Ireland	·50901
Scotland	·03893

There were 315 single women, of those the proportions were :—

From England	·25714
Ireland	·72698
Scotland	·01587

There were 289 single men; these were in the following proportions :—

From England	·21453
Ireland	·75432
Scotland	·03114

Of the married men, the proportions were :—

From England	·63829
Ireland	·30851
Scotland	·05319

With regard to education, the proportion of those who could read and write, of fourteen years old and upwards, was ·51177.

Of the whole number who were nominated, the relative proportions belonging to the different religious denominations were :—

Church of England	·40591
Rome	·49531
Scotland	·01081
Free Church of Scotland	·01658
Wesleyan Methodists	·04542
Other Protestants	·02595

Return K. gives a nominal list of the single women nominated in virtue of purchase of land, by each ship, and the period during which they remained in the Female Immigrant Depôt.

From these returns I infer that the system of nomination in virtue of purchase of land does not act for the good of the colony.

If this right of nomination under land purchase were abolished, and the regulations for nomination without purchase of land were retained, with slightly reduced scales of payment, I have every reason to believe that the consequences would be beneficial.

This change would assimilate the system adopted here to the bounty system of Tasmania, which has been found practically to act well.

The payment of 3*l.* for the nomination of each statute adult under forty-five years of age appears to be sufficient to afford a guarantee that the persons nominated would be desirable as colonists. Nevertheless, I think that there ought to be a regulation, that the wives and children of those now in the colony may be nominated by the husband or parent for immediate passage to the colony on the payment of the smallest sum required as deposit by the Commissioners at home.

I have, &c.

(Signed) H. Duncan, M.D.,
Immigration Agent.

The Honourable the Colonial Secretary.

WESTERN AUSTRALIA.

No. 40.

Copies of DESPATCHES from Governor Kennedy to the Right Hon. Henry Labouchere.

(No. 58.)

Government House, Perth,
June 13, 1856.
Received September 5, 1856.

Sir,

I have the honour to forward herewith the Duplicate Blue Book for 1855, which I trust will be found to have been accurately and carefully compiled.

Having administered the government of this colony for a part of the year only, I propose to confine my remarks to those subjects more immediately requiring explanation, and in the order in which I find them in the tabular statement.

Taxes and Duties.

There has not been any change in the taxes and duties during the year. There is no direct taxation of any kind.

Revenue.

The comparative statement at page 30 shows a small increase in the fixed revenue, the receipts in 1855 being 33,782*l.*, against 33,593*l.* in 1854.

The incidental revenue, parliamentary grant, &c. being included, increases the total revenue for 1855 to 48,639*l.*, against 45,775*l.* in 1854. In these sums are included temporary loans from the Western Australian Bank of 1,832*l.* in 1854, and 5,110*l.* in 1855. The loans have been explained and remarked upon in my despatches during the year.

Expenditure.

The expenditure in 1855 amounted to 49,240*l.*, against 45,171*l.* in 1854.

Public Debt.

The public debt of the colony amounts to 12,939*l.*, the items and explanation of which are fully detailed at page 44.

Legislation.

The titles of the ordinances passed during the year are sufficiently indicative of their object, and do not call for any special remark.

Imports and Exports.

The imports in 1855 amounted to 105,320*l.*, against 128,260*l.* in 1854, while the exports in 1855 were in excess of those in 1854 by a sum of 10,069*l.*, the value of the exports for the two years respectively being 46,314*l.* and 36,245*l.*; a state of facts highly indicative of a sounder trade, and the prosperity of the colony, the more so when it is considered that there has been no appreciable increase to the population.

WESTERN AUSTRALIA.

The articles of export on which there is the principal increase are:—

	£
Horses	1,630
Lead and lead ore	1,750
Oil	1,060
Copper ore	26
Timber	4,300
Wool	4,800
	13,556

I attach no importance to the decrease of imports in 1855 as compared with 1854. A change in the law affecting dutiable goods took place in 1854, which induced merchants and traders to take a larger quantity out of bond than was actually required for consumption, in the anticipation of increased duties.

The introduction of convicts encouraged over importing, which only found its level in 1855; and those articles of import upon which there was an increase in 1855, viz., tea, coffee, sugar, tools, implements, &c., all indicate general prosperity.

An analysis of the imports of 1855 as compared with the previous year affords a most satisfactory result in many particulars. There has been a decrease of at least 10,000*l.* in the importation of articles under the head of agricultural and farming produce, replaced by home produce; and the extended cultivation during the current year affords every hope that the increased production in breadstuffs, cattle, pigs, &c. will reduce the imports by a sum of 10,000*l.* more, making a difference of 20,000*l.* in favour of the colony as compared with 1853–4.

Agriculture and Land Sales.

The agricultural interest throughout the colony is in a thriving condition, and a supply of food equal to the requirements of the colony has been for the first time produced since its formation.

The land sales in 1855 realized 3,925*l.*, against 2,758*l.* in 1854. The land revenue in 1855 amounted to 3,262*l.*, against 2,994*l.* in 1854. These figures, however satisfactory, do not in my opinion indicate the full extent of the improved condition of the agricultural interest. The reverses, losses, and liabilities incurred prior to the existence of the market created by the introduction of convicts have been to a great extent retrieved and liquidated during the last two years, and the agriculturist enabled to buy for cash what was heretofore obtained on credit. The ultimate benefit arising from this altered state of things to both buyer and seller cannot be doubted.

The extent of land brought under cultivation in 1855 has exceeded that of 1854 by at least 3,000 acres, and the sale of lands is still on the increase.

I think the land regulations, as laid down by Order in Council dated 22d March 1850, open to many objections, and calculated to retard the advancement of the colony.

Horticulture is rapidly on the increase, especially in the neighbourhood of Perth, and is highly remunerative. Fruit and vegetables are produced which cannot be excelled in any part of the world. Vineyards and the manufacture of wine are also on the increase, and some of the latter is of a very excellent quality.

Aborigines.

The natives of Western Australia are, I think, the least hopeful savages I have seen in any part of the world. All the philanthropic efforts, whether public or private, which have been made in their behalf, have resulted in absolute failure, and I believe that attempting to civilize (which involves housing them) entails certain death. They live upon terms of wonderful amity with the settlers, and are useful in a variety of occupations. They are rapidly decreasing in numbers, and will shortly altogether disappear from some districts. The absence of births is, I learn, most remarkable; and the mortality from influenza and complaints of the lungs very great; neither have they escaped the white man's vices of drunkenness and immorality, with their attendant penalties, still further increasing the mortality.

The island of Rottnest has been re-converted to its former purpose as a place of punishment for such of these scarcely responsible creatures as offend against the laws. They are employed in useful agricultural pursuits, and under little

restraint as compared with that which was necessary to prevent their escape on the mainland.

General Remarks.

The colony of Western Australia differs from all others in two important particulars,—the character of its population and the absence of free emigration, —to which another peculiarity may be added, that of its population being nearly stationary, and in my opinion likely to continue so for some years, unless other inducements than those at present existing to tempt immigrants present themselves.

It is lightly taxed, and its present revenue is, in my opinion, if properly administered, and the existing debt once liquidated, quite equal to its requirements.

There is no part of the world where industry and perseverance will be more certainly rewarded in any walk of life. A large proportion of the property of the colony is owned by men of humble origin and pretensions, and who now enjoy the fruit of their labour with as much honour and independence as they earned it.

I have travelled over a sufficient extent of the colony to enable me to form some estimate of its present resources and present prospects, and I think they are both highly encouraging. The occupied lands, though apparently of by no means first-class quality, aided by one of the finest climates in the world, are exceedingly fertile. I doubt whether a larger yield of cereal crop or potatoes per acre can be raised by the same degree of cultivation in any part of the world. The variety and luxuriance of its fruits, especially grapes, is, I believe, unrivalled. The whale fishery on its coasts, together with the rich mines of lead and copper ore in the northern districts, must ere long attract capital, and give an important impetus to the prosperity of the colony. Its timber, in the opinion of competent judges, is of most superior and durable quality.

The introduction of convicts, which insures a supply of cheap labour, and also a market for agricultural produce, will, I have no doubt, secure the colony against competition with other parts of the world, while the necessaries of life will continue to be obtainable at a reasonable rate.

The statistics of crime in the colony will bear favourable comparison with most parts of Her Majesty's dominions. It is a most gratifying fact that a large proportion of those exiled from the mother country have been restored to society and a career of honest industry; a result which, though reflecting the highest credit upon the Comptroller General and officers under him, is also largely attributable to the frank and cordial hand of fellowship which the colonists have ever extended to those who have proved themselves worthy of it. This extension of forbearance and kindly feeling has in no way affected the general moral tone of society, which is equal to that of any of the colonies, and exceeded by none.

The comparative state of crime for the last two years is as follows:

	1854.	1855.
Murders - - -	5	6
Other felonies - -	8	24
Misdemeanors - - -	24	26 (Larcenies).
Criminals executed - -	1	7

Of this latter number, three were natives, one a prisoner from the convict establishment, two were ticket-of-leave holders, and one a free woman. A large proportion of the murders in 1854-5 were committed by natives on their fellow countrymen, in carrying out their custom of killing a member of another tribe for every one who dies a natural death in their own. These returns do not of course comprise magisterial convictions. These figures afford little ground for the prejudice which has been raised by an injudicious and ungenerous portion of the public press against the migration of a few conditional-pardon men from this colony, who have by industry and good conduct realized the means of commencing life anew in another colony than that where they expiated their original offence.

Twenty-three American whalers have touched or been fishing on the coast during the year, and not one English. The colonial whale boats have realized above 5,000*l.* worth of oil and bone during the year.

WESTERN AUSTRALIA.

The pensioner force under Lieutenant-Colonel Bruce forms an important element in the population of this colony, and is calculated to exercise a lasting influence on the popular character of the colonists. I enclose a copy of Colonel Bruce's Annual Report to the Secretary-at-War, which contains a most accurate and truthful statement of all connected with the force. I can only add my testimony to the usefulness, prosperity, and good conduct of the men, mainly attributable to the judicious management and unremitting attention of Colonel Bruce, and Captain Foss, his second in command.

I have, &c.,

The Right Hon. H. Labouchere, &c. &c. &c.

(Signed) A. E. KENNEDY, Governor.

Encl. 1. in No. 40.

Enclosure 1. in No. 40.

SIR, Perth, 28th April 1856.

I HAVE the honour to submit the following particulars respecting the state and prospects of the pensioners in this colony up to the termination of the twelve months ending 31st ultimo.

As a body I am of opinion that the pensioners have done quite as well as any men of their position in life in this colony, although a few ill-conducted individuals have stood out prominently as persons in distress.

I subjoin a statement of occupations and earnings.

In LIEUT-COLONEL BRUCE'S District.

Saddler, earning about 5*s.* a day	1
Employed as farm labourers, at from 18*l.* to 24*l.* per annum, and rations	19
As domestic servants, man and wife, at from 30*l.* to 40*l.* per annum and board	2
Warders in convict establishment, at 50*l.* and 65*l.* per annum, rations and quarters	28
Police serjeant, at 100*l.* and quarters	1
Private of police, at 80*l.* per annum and quarters	5
On military duty at North Fremantle	11
„ with Fremantle detachment	15
„ at Freshwater Bay	10
„ at York	8
„ at Toodyay	5
„ at Albany	6
„ at Kojonup	5
„ at Port Gregory	6
„ at Champion Bay	4
„ at Rottnest Island	4
Staff serjeant at head quarters	1
Clerk to a mercantile firm, at 30*s.* a week	1
Commissariat messenger, at 45*l.* 12*s.* 6*d.* per annum, and a free ration	1
Shoemaker, earning upwards of 5*s.* a day, constant	1
In employment of Colonial Government, at from 36*l.* to 54*l.* per annum	3
Tailor, when employed, at 4*s.* per diem	1
Labourer, at 30*s.* per week, constant	1
Ditto, at 3*s.* 6*d.* per diem	14
Commissariat labourer, at 50*l.* per annum, and a free ration	1
Labourers, at 3*s.* 6*d.* per diem, not in constant work	5
Idle and improvident habits, living on wife's earnings	1
In military villages not returned on military duty	13
Left the colony without leave, names still borne on pay list	4
Dismissed enrolled force	4
Total now or have been enrolled	181

Pensioners discharged, or admitted to the pension list in this colony.

Superintendent of native prisoners at Rottnest Island, at 150*l.* per annum	1
Barrack serjeant, at 3*s.* 6*d.* per diem, and free ration	1
Shoemaker, in fair employment	1
Steward to a property, and well remunerated	1
Farm labourer, at 25*l.* per annum, and rations	1
Mail carrier, at 70*l.* per annum	1
Drunken and improvident	1
Living by their labour, earning from 3*s.* to 4*s.* a day	9
Total in Lieut.-Colonel Bruce's district	197

Carried forward - - -	197

In CAPTAIN FOSS's District.

On military duty - - - - - -	83
Warder in convict establishment, at 54*l.* per annum, rations and quarters - - - - - - -	4
Commissariat labourer, at 55*l.* per annum, and free ration - -	1
Labourer, at 3*s.* 6*d.* to 4*s.* per diem - - - -	20
Shoemakers, earning upwards of 5*s.* a day, constant - - -	2
Carpenters, earning upwards of 5*s.* a day, constant - - -	2
Tailors, in fair employment - - - -	2
Moulder, not constantly employed - - - - -	1
Servants, from 30*l.* to 40*l.* per annum - - -	2
Butcher, in fair employment - - - - -	1
Farm servants, at 25*l.* per annum, rations and quarters - -	5
Not able to work, being blind, but supported by wife's labour -	1
Drunken and improvident - - - - -	6
Left the colony without leave, but names still on pay list - -	20
Struck off the enrolled force for misconduct - - - -	3
Have never been enrolled in this colony - - - - -	
Warder, at 80*l.* per annum, rations and quarters - - -	1
Engaged in trade - - - - - - - - -	1
	352
Deduct :—	
Left the colony without leave, but names still borne on the pay lists -	24
Total pensioners throughout the colony	328

of whom 303 are actually enrolled.

The enrolled pensioners located in military villages are at present as follows:—

North Fremantle 24, of whom 19 are in cottages.

During the past year the great body of the convicts having been employed in the completion of their own prison, only one additional cottage has been made available for pensioners in this village.

I am happy to add that the great majority of the men and their families are thriving, some of them having as many as from five to ten cows, for the milk of which a ready sale is obtained in Fremantle at 6*d.* per quart. In short, sloth or improvidence is the only bar to prosperity there, and but a few individuals exhibit indications of such failings.

The men are employed from time to time on military duty as vacancies occur, an advantage which has enabled some of the most thrifty of them to make great advances in settling themselves.

Freshwater Bay. 12 pensioners still occupy this village, and during the past year several of them have made considerable progress in clearing their land. It is however still and is likely to continue one of the least promising locations.

At York 13 pensioners occupy neat cottages, each standing upon a four-acre allotment of excellent wheat land. In my last report the number of cottages was eight, consequently five have been erected during the past year, which was done by convict labour.

At Toodyay 11 pensioners are located in cottages and upon allotments similar to those at York, being an increase of five since last report.

In October last I accompanied Governor Kennedy to York and Toodyay, on which occasion his Excellency expressed himself highly gratified with the neatness, comfort, and general appearance of prosperity observable in the pensioner villages in those districts.

The village of Bunbury, consisting of 9 cottages, still maintains its character for neatness and respectability, as well as for the industry of its inhabitants.

The cottage formerly occupied by the pensioner named in the margin, whose death I alluded to in my last report, has been, under the authority of the Governor, handed over to another pensioner, and the Widow Brennan given a grant of six acres of arable land in lieu, together with 15*l.* in aid of erecting a house, besides the value of her late husband's improvements.

Priv. Patrick Brennan, from 6th Foot, at 1*s.*

At Port Gregory the pensioners are still in the unsatisfactory state as regards habitations which I reported last year.

His Excellency Governor Kennedy has expressed great anxiety respecting these men, and will, I am sure, either improve their condition there, or withdraw them altogether. In no locality have circumstances been less propitious to establishing pensioners. Upon being satisfied by personal observation that the men could never obtain a living off the land allotted to them, I recommended that a new site should be chosen. This was done ; but the pensioners, after approving in the first instance of the new locality, ultimately pronounced it as ill adapted as the old one. Matters have therefore been left in statu quo for the present, as the Governor will probably visit the district ere long.

WESTERN AUSTRALIA.

At Champion Bay there are still 4 pensioners occupying barracks, as stated in my last report.

There is reason to believe that a valuable copper mine has been discovered between Port Gregory and Champion Bay; and should hope not prove fallacious in this respect, the point for locating pensioners in this district may be changed by the discovery. 30 tons of copper ore have already been brought down, one piece of which weighs 200lbs.

At Albany, the pensioners, in common with all the labouring classes at that place, have suffered materially by the Peninsular and Oriental Company's steamers having been taken off the Australian line. Of the five pensioners mentioned in my last report as having located themselves with the aid of the 15*l.* allowed by Government, one has left his cottage and allotment, and gone into the interior, and another has applied to me for a transfer to Adelaide, which I have refused to grant till he conforms to the provisions of the War Office circular, No. 1064, of the 3d June 1850.

Three pensioners are located in temporary dwellings in rear of Perth, where 21 allotments have been laid out. I have not encouraged men settling upon this land until it is cleared by convict labour, which the governor intends to have done as soon as the strength of the depôt in the neighbourhood admits of hands being so employed.

At Kojonup I have nothing new to report, excepting that another pensioner has during the past year located himself there, with the aid of the 15*l.* allowed by Government, thus making four pensioners cottages which now exist at this isolated place.

The benevolent fund, the establishment of which was mentioned in my last report, has progressed most favourably, as will have been seen by the abstract of accounts transmitted with my letter, No. $\frac{7}{3}\frac{1}{1}\frac{2}{5}$, 29 February 1856.

During the past year there have been 21 transfers from the colony, namely :

2 to London.
1 to Cape of Good Hope.
1 to India.
2 to Melbourne.
7 to Adelaide.
2 to Sydney.
6 to Van Dieman's Land.

Of the above 5 were single men.

During the period embraced in this report 5 enrolled pensioners have died, 4 have been struck off the enrolled force for misconduct, and 3 of those dismissed in former years have been readmitted upon the grounds of reformation.

3.

Western Australia.

66.

12th October 1855.

In accordance with the War Office letter noted in the margin, I annex a return showing what has been the conduct of those who have been restored to the force during the last 3 years.

During the past year, as mentioned in my last report, I was induced, by a desire to benefit the pensioners to the utmost of my ability, to enter into a contract, as in the previous year, for a large supply of flour. By this arrangement the pensioners, to the extent of the supply thus secured, namely 20 tons, eat their flour at about $3\frac{3}{4}d.$ per pound, including 3*s.* put upon each bag of 200lbs. for the benefit of the benevolent fund; whereas the retail market price ranged during the year at from $4\frac{1}{2}d.$ to $5\frac{1}{2}d.$ per pound.

The correspondence transmitted with the War Office letter noted in the margin sanctioned the assistance of the commissariat department being afforded in this respect; but finding that the cost price, namely, $4\frac{1}{4}d.$ per pound, for issues of flour from the commissariat magazines, was much higher than I could make arrangements for, I resolved upon again entering into a contract with a respectable settler, taking care, however, that he, as contractor, should bear the risk of transit, and that I should only be responsible that the quantity contracted for was taken and paid for in a given time. By this arrangement I have secured 20 tons of flour at 3*d.* per pound; and as 2*s.* 6*d.* is added to each bag of 200lbs. for the benefit of the benevolent fund, the pensioners will this year have flour to the extent of the supply contracted for at about $3\frac{1}{2}d.$ per pound.

In conclusion, I have the pleasure to observe, that, as a body, the enrolled pensioners, whether regarded as soldiers or settlers, continue to merit the character of an efficient and respectable class, in which all that is praiseworthy and useful very much preponderates over what is objectionable. There are black sheep in every flock, and therefore it cannot be expected that a force of upwards of three hundred men could be altogether exempt from slothful, intemperate, or improvident characters. To encourage and advance the interests of the meritorious many is still my pleasurable aim; as, on the other hand, it is my disagreeable duty to discountenance and repress the disorderly few, the latter measure being sometimes rendered the more painful by the defaulters involving in the consequences of their misconduct their wives and children.

I have, &c.

J. Bruce, Lieut. Colonel, Staff Officer.

Enclosure 2. in No. 40.

WESTERN AUSTRALIA.

Encl. 2. in No. 40.

RETURN of PENSIONERS who have been restored to the ENROLLED FORCE during the last Three Years, and showing their Conduct since re-admission. Perth, W. A., 1st April 1856.

Regiment from which pensioned.	Rate of Pension.	Rank and Name.	Offences for which dismissed.	Date of dismissal.	Date of restoration.	Conduct since restoration.
7th Foot -	11½*d.*	Corp. James Parke	Insulting language to ticket-of-leave men, and insubordination to Lt.-Col. Bruce.	29 Oct. 1851.	1 Apr. 1853.	Quiet and orderly. Has been occasionally employed on military duty; and when off has supported himself and family by his trade of shoemaker.
54th Foot	7*d.*	Private John Burtonshaw.	Habitual drunkenness.	6 Nov. 1852.	1 Oct. 1855.	Prior to dismissal from the enrolled force, this man and his wife appeared continually at the police office for drunkenness in the streets. Since his restoration neither of them have been brought to notice for irregularity, and I have reason to believe his habits to be now steady.
59th Foot	6*d.*	Private John Baldwin.	Drunk upon duty under arms.	10 Aug. 1854.	1 May 1855.	Has not been brought to notice for any offence since restoration, and has been on military duty.
88th Foot	1*s.*	Private George Swift.	Insubordination -	20 Jan. 1854.	1 Jan. 1855.	Has been steady and industrious.
E. I. C. -	9*d.*	Serjeant William Nugent.	Habitual drunkenness and insubordination.	Sept. 1852.	1 July 1855.	Has worked industriously at his trade of blacksmith, and has not been brought to notice for any offence since restoration.

N.B.—There has been but one instance, since the introduction of enrolled pensioners into this colony, of a restored man having merited second expulsion from the force, namely, the case of Peter Lowers, from the Royal Marines, at 6*l.* per annum, who was struck off in April 1852, restored in October 1852, and dismissed a second time in October 1853.

J. BRUCE, Lieut.-Colonel, Staff Officer.

No. 41.

No. 41.

COPY of DESPATCH from Governor KENNEDY to the Right Hon. H. LABOUCHERE.

(No. 122.)

Government House, Perth, November 28, 1856.

SIR, (Received February 16, 1857.)

STATEMENTS having been put before the public and circulated, which if true would lead to the belief that this colony was retrograding and in a languishing condition, I deem it my duty to place the result of my own observations during a recent tour before you.

I lately proceeded from Perth, and was present at the York and Toodyay agricultural meetings, visiting Northam and all the intervening settlements. I was thus enabled to draw a comparison between the present and past year, when I visited the district at the same season.

I scarcely saw a single farm where there was not additional land cleared, cropped, or fallowed.

I had the satisfaction of seeing many ticket-of-leave holders and conditional-pardon holders settled upon land, and doing well; in every case generously assisted at the commencement by the free settlers.

I met and conversed with many men who a few years since were shepherds, now the owners of large herds of cattle, sheep, and horses, and with extensive farms under cultivation. I did not see a gloomy countenance or hear a discontented murmur.

The land sales are steadily increasing; a very small portion of the community, bond or free, unemployed; and the paupers of the colony consist of a very few persons, permanently incapacitated from earning their bread by reason of old age or other infirmity.

Many who were hired servants a few years since are now employers of labour, and extending their farming operations daily.

The number of traders, importers, and commission agents are out of all proportion to the number or requirements of the population, and some of these, who formerly realized 200 per cent. profit upon imported articles, are the only murmurers I have met with. Contrasting the prices of imported articles with their cost in England, their profits must still far exceed those which would be considered remunerative elsewhere.

WESTERN AUSTRALIA.

The supply of colonial-grown flour will, I have every reason to believe, this year exceed the demand for home consumption, and can be profitably sold at a price to defy competition.

Pork, bacon, and hams have hitherto been largely imported; and I know of one settler alone who has this year killed 500*l.* worth.

Home-made dried fruits and colonial wine, both of excellent quality, are displacing imports under those heads, and will ere long become articles of export.

I would not have deemed it necessary to trouble you with these hasty remarks, but for the misrepresentations (I would hope unwittingly) put forth by a small body of persons whose individual profits may have decreased.

It may not be improper for me to add, that my reception throughout the district was most cordial and flattering.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. E. KENNEDY.

The Right Hon. H. Labouchere,
&c. &c. &c.

NEW ZEALAND.

NEW ZEALAND.

No. 42.

No. 42.

Copy of a DESPATCH from Governor Gore Browne to the Right Hon. Sir W. Molesworth, Bart.

(No. 21.) Auckland, New Zealand, March 3, 1856.

Sir, (Received June 23, 1856.)

I have the honour to forward a copy of the Blue Book for the year ending 31st December 1854, together with an explanation of the delay attending its completion, by the Colonial Secretary.

Feb. 28, 1856.

2. The Collector of Customs at Nelson, who is the only officer under my control mentioned by the Colonial Secretary, has been written to again in strong terms, by the last mail.

I have, &c.
(Signed) THOMAS GORE BROWNE.

The Right Hon. Sir W. Molesworth, Bart.,
&c. &c. &c.

Encl. in No. 42.

Enclosure in No. 42.

Colonial Secretary's Office, Auckland,
February 28, 1856.

Sir,

I have the honour to lay before your Excellency the Blue Book for the year 1854, and in explanation of the long delay that has taken place in preparing it, I beg leave to state that in consequence of the numerous changes that have taken place since the introduction of the new constitution and the division of the colony into six provinces, the difficulties in obtaining the necessary information for its compilation have very much increased.

Although the usual applications for information accompanied with requisite printed forms were issued some time before the end of 1854, I have not yet been able to obtain returns from the Collector of Customs of Nelson, nor from the provincial authorities of Wellington or Canterbury, notwithstanding that the omission has been repeatedly brought under the notice of the officers who should have sent in the returns. After waiting a considerable time for them it became necessary to seek out the little information concerning the above-named provinces which the book contains from such records and sources of information that were otherwise available. This entailed greater labour than usual, and after all that has been accomplished, I regret to say that the book is still incomplete, as, for example, no statement could be given of the exports and imports of the whole colony in the absence of the Nelson Custom House returns, nor could a comparison be instituted between the trade of the year 1854 and that of the preceding year, as is required.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ANDREW SINCLAIR,
Colonial Secretary.

His Excellency Governor Browne, C.B.,
&c. &c. &c.

PART V.

EASTERN COLONIES.

PART V.—EASTERN COLONIES.

CEYLON.

CEYLON.

No. 43.

No. 43.

Copy of a DESPATCH from Governor Sir H. G. Ward to the Right Hon. H. Labouchere, M.P.

(No. 94.) Pavilion, Kandy, June 9, 1856.
Received July 23, 1856.

Sir,

In transmitting the Blue Book for the year 1854, I was unable, from my recent arrival in the colony, to accompany it with any remarks; and although I have now completed my first year in Ceylon, and have visited, personally, a considerable portion of the island, its circumstances are so peculiar and its interests so varied, that I still feel much diffidence in attempting to submit to you a connected view of its position or its wants, and must solicit indulgence for conclusions which may be altered or modified by further experience.

Finance.

2. It is highly satisfactory to me to be enabled to begin by informing you that the finances of the colony are in a prosperous state. The comparative statement of the revenue of Ceylon for the years 1854 and 1855, prepared by the Acting Auditor General, Mr. Lee, shows that the net increase in 1855 amounted to 68,231*l.* 18*s.* 6½*d.* The excess of revenue over expenditure within the year, notwithstanding a large supplementary estimate*, amounted to 70,663*l.* 16*s.*, the expenditure, including a sum of 71,171*l.* 19*s.* 11½*d.* for military protection, having been 405,609*l.* 12*s.* 11¼*d.*, while the revenue was 476,273*l.* 8*s.* 11¼*d.*

* 40,760*l.* 1*s.* 4¼*d.*

3. The principal items of increase in the revenue were,

1. The Customs - - -	£32,884
2. Land sales - - - -	5,627
3. Land revenue - - -	12,310
4. Tolls, bridges, ferries, roads, &c. -	4,338
5. Pearl fishery - - -	11,050

I omit the smaller items, which will be found in the Auditor General's very able Report.

4. The increase in the Customs is ascribed partly to large importations of paddy and other grain from India, in consequence of a deficient harvest at home, and partly to an increase in the trade of the island generally, the thriving position of the coffee districts encouraging a larger introduction of every article of European produce. In the one case, the increase in the custom house receipts appears to indicate distress, rather than prosperity; in the other, it bespeaks the healthy and vigorous action of successful industry. The two, fortunately, are not incompatible here, for the great bulk of the rice imported is consumed by the Coolies employed upon the coffee estates; and though prices at times were undoubtedly high in the principal towns, it may be questioned whether the mass of the agricultural population felt the pressure to anything like the same extent, the scarcity of rice in the market simply showing that, after providing for their own consumption, the Cingalese cultivators had little rice for sale. The increase of the land revenue* was due to the improvement in the crops of 1855, as compared with those of 1854. The land sales* are, or rather would be, if the survey department could keep pace with the demand, the best criterion of the prospects of the coffee planters. The tolls, bridges, &c.* show the increasing activity of trade; while the receipts from the pearl fishery* have come most opportunely, after an interval of nineteen years, to augment the resources of the colony at a moment when their fuller development, in my judgment, depends upon a judicious application of the means which are happily at the disposal of the Government and of the Secretary of State.

* 12,310*l.*
* 5,627*l.*
* 4,338*l.*
* 11,050*l.*

5. For, although the revenue of the present year will probably not be quite equal to that of its predecessor, the Collector of Customs and the Auditor General anticipating a decrease of 12,000*l.* in the Customs alone †, while there

† This anticipation has not been verified up to the present time, the Customs revenue for the first four months of 1856 having amounted to 60,727*l.* 17*s.* 4*d.*, while that of the first four months in 1855 was 60,821*l.* 11*s.* 3¼*d.*

CEYLON.

are no pearl banks in a sufficiently forward state to be fished before March 1857, still the large surplus of the past year*, added to the † balances of several preceding years, during which the financial position of the colony, slowly recovering from a long series of reverses, imposed the necessity of a rigid economy upon my predecessors, renders the balance sheet of 31st December 1855 by far the most favourable statement of the kind that has been transmitted for many years from Ceylon.

* 70,663*l.* 16*s.*

† Vide enclosed statement of revenue and expenditure from 1849 to 1854, shewing a net surplus revenue of 76,726*l.* Enclosure 1.

6. The assets of the colony are stated in this document at 305,097*l.* 3*s.* 8*d.*; the liabilities, including deposits, and the whole of the Treasury notes not yet cancelled, at 86,619*l.* 3*s.* 8¼*d.*, leaving a balance in favour of the Ceylon Government of 218,477*l.* 19*s.* 11¾*d.* But this includes a sum of 104,746*l.* 14*s.* 6¼*d.* under the head of "Revenue Debts outstanding, as per Returns from different Government Agents." Most of these are of very ancient date, and have formed the subject of frequent correspondence with Her Majesty's Government, and of repeated proceedings in the courts of law. The probability, or possibility, of realizing any portion of these claims may be considered as tolerably well ascertained; and I am sorry to say that out of the large amount due 38,620*l.* 6*s.* 5½*d.* are pronounced to be "wholly irrecoverable," and "awaiting the authority of the Home Government for allowance;" 54,901*l.* 0*s.* 10½*d.* are still, nominally, in Court, but with little prospect of a favourable result, and 11,225*l.* 7*s.* 2½*d.* are alone considered to be "recoverable." I therefore deduct 93,521*l.* 7*s.* 3¾*d.* from the balance of 218,477*l.* 19*s.* 11¾*d.* given by the Auditor General, and this leaves 124,956*l.* 12*s.* 8*d.* as the real surplus in the hands of the Ceylon Government on the 1st January 1856, and available for such works of acknowledged public utility as may be sanctioned by the Secretary of State, in addition to the ordinary revenue of the year.

7. The whole of the Treasury notes are included amongst the liabilities of the Government. The value of the notes originally issued was 87,500*l.* Of these 67,454*l.* are in the hands of the Government, and 20,000*l.* still outstanding. The notes will be transmitted to England as they are cancelled. Their place has been fully supplied by the notes of the Oriental Bank, which, although not a legal tender, are re-issued without difficulty by the Kutcherries at par. The mercantile bank has not yet qualified itself for the enjoyment of a similar privilege, but hopes shortly to be in a position to do so; and judging by the experience of the last six months, not the slightest inconvenience will result to the Government or the community from the change made in the paper currency of the colony, by the instructions contained in Lord John Russell's Despatch No. 5, of the 8th May 1855, notwithstanding the apprehensions that were at one time entertained as to its effects.

8. I had the honour of calling your attention some time ago to the undesirableness of leaving so large a sum as 124,000*l.* wholly unproductive in the Treasury vault, and I received authority from you to enter into negociations respecting it with the Oriental Bank. These have not yet led to the desired result; and it remains, therefore, for Her Majesty's Government to decide to what extent and in what way the balance may be turned to the best account. Questions respecting an unappropriated surplus have not yet arisen in this colony; but presuming that, under certain limitations with regard to the amount to be employed in any one year, I may regard the sum now in the Treasury as available for public purposes under the usual conditions, namely, a vote of the Legislative Council upon the recommendation of the Governor, sanctioned by the Secretary of State, I shall proceed to consider the important question of public works, upon which the position of Ceylon, as a coffee-producing colony, in the European market, mainly depends.

Public Works.

9. For it is not enough to have a climate favourable to the growth of the coffee plant, and Crown lands, still unoccupied, adapted to its cultivation. There must be the means of conveying the crop to the port of shipment at a reasonable cost, especially where, as is usually the case here, the estates themselves are not provided with buildings for drying and sorting the coffee, and

CEYLON.

where the district is not populous enough to furnish the labour required for the various processes which are found necessary before putting it on board. Hence the general anxiety for a railway between Colombo and Kandy, or such other point in the interior as will secure the readiest access to the sea to the largest number of estates. Hence, too, the incessant complaints, during Sir G. Anderson's government, about the state of the roads, which, partly from a succession of wet seasons, and partly from the dearth of funds, unquestionably furnished just grounds of dissatisfaction, large as the sums expended upon them were; for where bandies, with oxen, are the sole means of conveyance for a coffee crop bordering upon 450,000 cwts., the shipment of which must be effected before the commencement of the south-west monsoon, which generally begins in May, everything that causes uncertainty or delay in the carriage of the coffee interferes most materially with the calculations of the planter, and in some cases converts anticipated profits into actual loss. I know of one district (Badulla) in which the cost of conveying a cwt. of coffee to Colombo, at the time when the Nuwera Ellia Road was most out of repair, amounted to fourteen shillings per cwt.; while so much time was spent in the transit that bandies were often three months upon the road, the distance being only 155 miles.

10. The want of some surer, quicker, and cheaper mode of communication is, therefore, generally felt; and though there are differences of opinion in the colony as to whether the best mode of obtaining this will be by an agreement with a company, or by a Government loan, though there are doubts as to the precise line which a railway should follow, and fears (not without good reason) that the supply of labour will be inadequate to meet the demands both of the railway works and of the estates, many of which are only now recovering from the pressure of less favourable years, still the question appears to me to be only a question of time. Foreign competition will render a railway indispensable, and, sooner or later, it must be made.

11. All that the Government did last year, or can do while this matter is pending, is to take care to maintain and extend, so far as possible, those lines of road which from their geographical position are sure to become tributaries to the railway, whatever be the line ultimately adopted, and I have constantly acted upon this principle in dealing with the various proposals that have come before me for roads and bridges, and repairs. The main road between Kandy and Colombo has been kept in excellent condition; the road to Nuwera Ellia, which forms the means of communication with the coffee districts of Gampola, Pusilawa, Dimbolla, and ultimately Badulla, has been thoroughly repaired. The communication between Kotmalie and Gampola, where the great ferry over the Mahawilla Ganga is established, has been restored, and the site selected for an iron suspension bridge, which, after remaining for nearly thirty years in the commissariat stores, is now about to replace at Gampola a means of conveyance which, however well adapted to the former circumstances of the colony, is now found wholly insufficient for its wants.

12. By the Report of the Commissioner of Public Works, which I shall direct to be prepared, in future, in a different form, as, from the absence of any classification of the items according to provinces, it requires a very intimate knowledge of the island to trace the amount of work done in each,—it appears that, in the course of 1855, 11,408*l.* 19*s.* 6*d.* were spent upon the up-keep of the main Kandy Road; and 1,296*l.* 4*s.* 4*d.* upon the Peradenia Bridge, which forms so essential a part of the communication with Colombo; 5,796*l.* 15*s.* 4*d.* were laid out upon the line between Peradenia and Nuwera Ellia; 4,556*l.* 13*s.* 2*d.* upon the road to Galle; and 1,493*l.* in constructing four miles of new road in the northern province, between Jaffora and the Elephants Pass, which was absolutely indispensable for the use of the cocoa-nut estates. The whole sum expended by the Government within the year for the up-keep of roads and canals was 39,594*l.*, to which must be added 15,929*l.* contributed in labour or commutation money, under the Road Ordinance of 1848, making 55,523*l.* in all. The repair of bridges is stated at 2,724*l.* 16*s.* 3*d.*, of public buildings at 4,334*l.* 12*s.* 2¼*d.*, while the cost of new buildings was 2,607*l.*, and of the department altogether 64,515*l.* 4*s.* 3¼*d.*, making, with the 15,929*l.* 5*s.* 9¼*d.* of ordinance labour, a total of 80,444*l.* 10*s.* 0½*d.*

13. Speaking with the advantage of recent experience, I have no hesitation in stating that many of these items are wholly insufficient for the objects proposed; for instance, the amount taken for the repair of public buildings does not suffice to preserve many of the courts, rest-houses, and cutcherries, which I have seen in the eastern and northern provinces, from premature decay, attended naturally with great ultimate expense, as it becomes necessary to rebuild entirely what a small annual outlay might have preserved. In like manner the bridges, with the exception of the main lines of road to Kandy and Galle, are in a most discreditable state, and will require a heavy expenditure to make up for past neglect. Upon one bridge*, where a Government toll is levied, the contractor has thrown up his contract, the bridge being in so dangerous a state that neither cattle nor carts can pass; and in several other instances that have come under my personal observation, where piers have been been built at a very heavy cost, no bridge has been constructed, so that the communication remains interrupted while the piers themselves are going to decay.*

* Madampe.

Examples :—
* Bridge at Ratnapoora on Colombo Road, at Parampootaar, on Trincomalie Road.

14. The same principle holds good with regard to all other descriptions of public work in a climate peculiarly wasting in its action upon iron and wood and earth works of every kind. The heavy cost of re-opening the water communication with Putlam might have been spared during the present year had the tolls been regularly applied in removing obstructions as they occurred; and I cannot too strongly express my opinion that it is a mistake to merge these local receipts in the general revenue, until, at all events, due provision has been made for the maintenance of those conditions from which the receipts are derived. I shall hope to be enabled to submit some proposal to Her Majesty's Government upon this subject, in the course of the next session of the Legislative Council, and in the meantime, I have agreed with the Colonial Secretary to take a larger vote in the estimates, which are now preparing, for repairs.

15. With regard to new roads and new bridges it is obvious that the amount laid out in 1855*, cannot form a standard for subsequent years in a colony where fresh lines of communication are constantly called for by the large investments of capital made, and where the purchasers of Crown lands evince so laudable a readiness to co-operate with the Government in bringing the new districts thus opened into contact with the old. To assist this onward movement, by which it so largely benefits, for the prosperous state of the revenue is the result of the increasing prosperity of the community, is, in my humble judgment, the secret of that farther progress to which I confidently look. It depends upon a judicious use of all available means, and a wise liberality will be found the best economy in the end.

* New roads 2,600*l.*, new bridges 211*l.* 14*s.*

16. You will observe, Sir, that there is no mention of irrigation works in the Blue Book of 1855, and with the exception of a small grant for the repair of the "Ooma Ella," sanctioned by Mr. MacCarthy, while acting as Lieutenant Governor, and added to by me, very little was done in a matter deeply interesting to the native population as well as to the community at large. I entertain little doubt that by a well considered application of a portion of the surplus funds now in the Treasury vault, a large addition may be made, at a comparatively small expense, to the cultivation of paddy, and consequently to the revenue, while nothing that the Government can do would afford so much gratification to the Kandyans in particular, the cultivation of rice being the occupation in which they most willingly engage. The subject is deserving of your most serious attention, and it will be my duty to bring it before you in many different shapes. I have called for reports from all the Government agents upon the state of the tanks and watercourses in their respective provinces, and the amount of land that might be brought into cultivation by their repair. A draft ordinance, affording facilities for the revival of some of the ancient village water rights, and creating a local tribunal for the settlement of disputes, is under consideration, and may, I think, be brought into an useful and practical shape.

Surveying Department.

17. The Tabular report of the Surveyor General shews that in the course of the year 1855, 83 lots, consisting of 10,378 acres of land, were sold, realizing a sum of 19,919*l.* 5*s.* 7½*d.*, while the expense of the department in salaries and contingencies did not exceed 5,365*l.* 15*s.* 3¾*d.*, from which must be deducted

Enclosure 2.

CEYLON.

1,380*l.* 7*s.* 11*d.* for fees received from the purchasers over and above the cost price, leaving the net expense 3,985*l.* 7*s.* 4*d.* Taking the receipts and the fees together (21,299*l.* 13*s.* 6½*d.*) the Government, by an outlay of 5,365*l.* 15*s.* 3¾*d.* has gained very nearly 16,000*l.*; and it is my belief that for many years to come every increase in the working strength of the department will be followed by a similar increase in its receipts.

18. The Surveyor General, Captain Gosset, is the first to admit and proclaim the impossibility of meeting the demand for surveys with the means now at his disposal, although these have been considerably extended by the additions made to the department at the close of the last session of the Legislative Council. But a much larger force of trained and competent men is required to do justice to the work in hand. All that can be effected as present is to provide for the most pressing requirements of the service; and as these are naturally considered to consist more especially of the applications for large blocks of Crown land, adapted for coffee planting, the assistant surveyors are hurried from one part of the central province to another, as fast as the arduous nature of their duties and their own physical powers will admit, without the possibility of making provision for smaller, but not less just or less urgent, demands; and these, unfortunately comprise nearly the whole of the native claims.

19. In my first address to the Legislative Council (July 1855), I had occasion to remark upon the discreditable position of the Government with regard to the native purchasers of land in 1848, who had been left for ten years without a title to allotments bought and paid for, under a Government proclamation, to the great injury of their families, and the discouragement of agricultural pursuits, in which a large body of monied natives is anxious to engage, if placed in a position to do so safely. I am sorry to say that no step has yet been taken to repair this breach of faith. Every man at present in the Surveying Department has his allotted work. Two officers (Mr. Braybrooke and Mr. Ferguson) have been forced to leave the island on sick leave, and there is no one to supply their places. And, notwithstanding the greatest good will and the most unremitting exertions on the part of all concerned, it is impossible that one third of what ought to be done, and might be done, profitably in every sense, morally, pecuniarily, and socially, within the next five years, can even be attempted, without a large increase of strength.

20. I cannot better illustrate the consequences of this state of things than by bringing under your notice the case of the town of Matelle, as submitted to me by the Government agent for the central province. Matelle is 16 miles north of Kandy, and second only to that place in the amount of business done there. It contains 400 houses, built by wealthy Moormen within the last fifteen years, for the accommodation of the coffee estates, which have replaced the jungle upon the neighbouring mountains, and have created a large and busy population, which comes to Matelle for its supplies. The town contains rice stores, bazaars, shops, many of which have changed hands more than once, and some under a Fiscal's sale, thus giving an indirect sanction, on the part of Government, to the proprietary rights acquired. Yet, not a single man in Matelle can shew a title to the land which he occupies, and upon which his house is built. The whole of it was unquestionably Crown property, and might have been sold upon most advantageous terms if a survey could have been obtained. But though repeatedly applied for by the Government agents, whose correspondence clearly predicted the consequences of delay, this has not been effected up to the present day. Some of the occupants have held their land for the prescribed term of ten years and cannot now be disturbed. This is a dead loss. Others approach that term so nearly that the only thing that the Government can do is to make an equitable adjustment of claims, which cannot be enforced without injustice, to their full extent. Even for this it is absolutely necessary that the town should be surveyed, and the lots accurately marked out. I hope that the Surveyor General will be able to detach an officer upon this duty at a very early period, but I cannot say positively as yet that this will be done. The Government agent must then be authorized to make the best terms that he can under the peculiar circumstances of the case; and as there is apparently a disposition on the part of the inhabitants to meet the question fairly, provided they can obtain a good title to property which they have so largely improved, I hope that a settlement may be amicably effected, though not without a heavy

pecuniary loss, if we compare what may now be realized with what might have been obtained had a survey been made in 1848, and had the Government been thus enabled to deal freely with the various applicants for land.

21. The case of Matelle may be thought an extreme one and not likely to recur, but it illustrates the system. The differences are simply differences of degree. What has occurred at Matelle is occurring in every part of the island where new roads are opened, or new branches of industry spring up. Men will not be shut out from land which they can neither lease nor buy, and which the Government does not use. They become squatters, they plant, they cultivate, they form little colonies, along the lines of Minor Road. The Government agent sees his district improving and cannot check its progress by a rigorous application of the law. And so the thing goes on until one of two things happens, either that the rights of the Crown lapse, by length of possession, or that an attempt is made to assert them by ejecting the tenant, who defends, in that case, by every species of legal fraud, a property of which he would have been the willing purchaser, but which he will not allow to be taken from him, when improved by the labour of many years.

22. I cannot too strongly express my opinion that this state of things is a most dangerous one; that it fosters discontent, litigation, and fraud, and that every effort should be made to put an end to it by a Government which values the attachment or morality of the people committed to its charge. The subject is receiving my most anxious attention, and I hope, with the assistance of the present very able Surveyor General, Captain Gosset, to be able to submit to you a measure that will at all events mitigate an evil which it is impossible entirely to remove without an expenditure which the colony cannot afford.

Legislation.

23. Very little was done in the way of legislation during the session of 1855. I was not in a position myself, from my recent arrival in the colony, to suggest any new measures, and an ordinance "to provide for the security of the Pioneer Pension Fund," with three other ordinances for the amendment of existing Acts, were the only bills that I found prepared. The session was occupied with the proceedings respecting the railway, the consideration of the estimates, and other current business, in the discussion of which it is most gratifying to me to state that the greatest unanimity and good feeling prevailed.

Public Health.

24. With the exception of the northern province, where a considerable number of cholera cases occurred during the earlier part of the year, no disease partaking of the character of an epidemic can be said to have visited Ceylon in the course of 1855. A certain number of deaths from small pox there always must be until vaccination becomes universally diffused; and the cholera, the germ of which is constantly re-imported from the coast of India by the immigrant Coolies, seems to be almost indigenous. But it has not during the past year found here those atmospheric conditions which seem to be essential to its progress, and after a few isolated cases it disappears. This is the more remarkable as no precautions are taken with regard to quarantine, to the non-enforcement of which the recent outbreak of cholera in the Mauritius is ascribed.

Imports and Exports.

25. The imports and exports of 1855 show a steady increase, as compared with those of the preceding year.

The imports are stated at - - -	£1,457,770	0	0
Those of 1854 - - - -	1,225,350	0	0
Increase -	£232,420	0	0
Exports 1855 - - -	£1,350,410	0	0
1854 - - -	1,236,938	0	0
Increase -	£113,472	0	0

CEYLON.

The quantity of cinnamon exported was less in 1855 by 64,000 lbs., but coffee rose from 407,621 cwts. to 506,540 cwts., being an increase of 98,919 cwts.; and the general revenue derived from imports and exports amounted to 143,040*l.* in lieu of 109,775*l.*, which was the amount in 1854. The principal item of increase was no doubt in the duties on rice and paddy, the money value of the imports being stated at—

1855 - - - -	£564,464
1854 - - - - -	412,318
Difference -	£152,146

But I have explained why this apparent scarcity of one of the necessaries of life with an eastern population is not incompatible with a state of prosperity in Ceylon, a larger proportion of the rice imported being required for the support of the imported Cooly labour upon the coffee estates.

Education.

Enclosure 3.

26. The Fourteenth Report of the Central School Commission contains a full and interesting statement of the progress made in the works of public instruction in this island, and of the expenditure connected with it. The subject is too large to form a fit matter for incidental discussion, and I have had as yet neither time nor opportunities sufficient to make myself well acquainted with it; that much has been done there is no doubt, that more might be done, could means be found to inspire parents with a local interest in their schools, and so to ensure the more regular attendance of the children, seems to be the feeling both of the Commission itself and of its very intelligent inspector, Mr. Brooke Bailey. In the Ionian Islands, where the same apathy at one time prevailed, a remedy was found by calling upon the inhabitants of each village to bear half the expense of the school established in it, and by transferring the school to another village whenever the number of pupils fell short of the minimum required to cover the expenditure. The number of schools being fixed for each island, there were always abundance of candidates for the privilege of having a school in a particular locality; and while this acted as a stimulus upon the village communities, the masters took a greater interest in their work, because if the attendance fell below the proper standard they lost their situation, while the Government made over to them whatever excess there might be in the receipts, regarding this as the fruit of their exertions.

For example, the salaries paid to masters, on my first going to Corfu, were 7½ dollars a month. This was reduced to 3½ dollars, and no school was licensed unless there were 30 pupils, whose united payments made up the 7 dollars. If the master by attention and skill obtained 40 or 50 pupils, he had the benefit of it. If only 30 he had no ground of complaint, for his pay continued what it was originally. The system certainly worked well during the last year of my stay in Corfu, and something analogous to it might, I think, be introduced here with advantage. The question will be brought shortly under the notice of the School Commission.

Pearl Fishery.

27. The pearl fishery of 1855 was the first that has taken place since 1837, when the gross receipts amounted to 10,631*l.*, and the expenses to 3,177*l.* The receipts of last year were 10,922*l.*, and the expenses 2,632*l.*, making a net addition of 8,290*l.* to the revenue.

I am happy to say that the surveys recently taken confirm the expectation that another fishery may take place in March 1857, with every probability of a successful issue. A second bank is also reported to be in a sufficiently forward state to warrant a similar expectation for 1859; so that there appears to be a reasonable probability that the pearl banks of Aripo have recovered their productive powers, and that if not again exhausted by excessive demands, they will become a source of annual, or at all events, of biennial income to the Government.

The Government agent for the Northern Province expresses strongly his opinion that it will be indispensable, under these circumstances, that the Government should have a steamer at its disposal, both for the maintenance of

the police during the fishery,—a matter of great importance from the number of boats attracted by it from the coast of India,—and for the prevention of smuggling by unexpected visits. In this view I concur entirely.

28. I have now endeavoured, I fear at too much length, to bring before you the results of the year 1855, and to show their bearing upon the present year, as well as upon the past. If, in my desire to present to you a faithful picture of the state of things as I have found and seen them in various parts of the island, I have used any expression that may seem to reflect upon the administration of my predecessors, I beg to state most distinctly that nothing can be farther from my thoughts. It was the fate of Lord Torrington and of Sir George Anderson to enter upon the government of this colony at a time when progress was impossible, and when the most rigid economy was required to balance the expenditure with the receipts. The planting interest itself, now happily freed from its embarrassments, was in a very precarious state. Trade was subject to violent fluctuations, and so strongly was the necessity of great circumspection felt, both here and at home, that so late as 1852, when the expenditure of the year exceeded the income by 1,065*l.*, Sir George Anderson's attention was called, with some severity, to the fact, and he was warned not to allow of its recurrence.

29. It is obvious that under these circumstances many things must have been omitted that it was most desirable to do. Improvement was out of the question; repairs, where it was possible, were postponed in the hope of better times; salaries were reduced; revenue and judicial offices combined, which a short experience has compelled the Government again to separate; and it is to the firmness with which this hard and painful duty was fulfilled during a period of seven years (from 1848 to 1855) by my two predecessors, aided by Mr. Mac Carthy, who, both as Colonial Secretary and as Lieutenant Governor, most ably seconded their efforts, that I am indebted for the very different state of things which I have had the good fortune to find here. The statement to which I have already had the honour of adverting (par. 5) shews that in the years 1850, 1851, 1853, and 1854 there was an excess of revenue over expenditure, the result of this economy, amounting to 76,726*l.* Add to this the surplus of 1855*, and the balance in favour of the Government, shown by the Auditor General's Report, is more than accounted for. No merit is due to me for either. I am profiting by the labours of others, and by a prosperity which I have found, not made. My sole duty is to avail myself of the altered circumstances of the colony as to advance its further development by submitting to you plans founded upon an accurate knowledge of the localities to which they apply, not too large for present resources yet large enough to meet the general demand for improved means of communication, and for an expanding field on which to employ native industry. These plans I am now preparing, in connexion with the estimates for the present year; and, coming before Her Majesty's Government, as I hope they will do, with the concurrence of the Colonial Legislature, they will, I know, receive from you that consideration to which they are entitled, as bearing upon the future welfare of one of the most interesting dependencies of the Crown.

* 70,663*l.* 16*s.*

I have, &c.

(Signed) H. G. WARD.

The Right Hon. H. Labouchere,
&c. &c. &c.

The Reports of the Civil Engineer and the Deputy Commissary General on the government houses at Colombo and Kandy, and the furniture contained in them, required by circular Despatch of the 9th August 1851, are herewith forwarded.

Enclosure 4.
Enclosure 5.

CEYLON.

Encl. 1 in No. 43.

Enclosure 1. in No. 43.

STATEMENT of the Estimated and Actual REVENUE and EXPENDITURE of the Government of Ceylon, from 1849 to 1854.

	Revenue.						Expenditure.					
	Estimated.			Actual.			Estimated.			Actual.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
1849 - -	409,300	0	0	409,306	14	4¾	407,654	0	0	418,424	14	2¾
1850 - - -	401,500	0	0	415,667	8	7	401,943	0	0	390,425	4	11
1851 - -	414,500	0	0	429,700	17	7¾	413,450	0	0	409,123	14	9¾
1852 - - -	408,463	1	0	411,806	4	8¾	406,260	18	3½	412,871	8	4
1853 - -	403,698	0	0	412,835	7	11¼	403,223	13	8¼	386,519	4	2
1854 - - -	404,000	0	0	408,041	10	4¾	402,659	3	4½	393,267	18	0¼

STATEMENT of the Actual RECEIPTS and EXPENDITURE of the Government of Ceylon, from 1849 to 1854.

	Actual Receipt.			Actual Expenditure.			Excess.			Balance.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
1849 - -	409,306	0	0	418,424	0	0	9,118	0	0			
1850 - -	415,667	0	0	390,425	0	0	-	-		25,242	0	0
1851 - -	429,700	0	0	409,123	0	0	-	-		20,577	0	0
1852 - -	411,806	0	0	412,871	0	0	1,065	0	0			
1853 - -	412,835	0	0	386,519	0	0	-	-		26,316	0	0
1854 - -	408,041	0	0	393,267	0	0	-	-		14,774	0	0
							10,183	0	0	86,909	0	0
							Deduct Excess		-	10,183	0	0
				Net Saving in six years			-	-	-	76,726	0	0

R BRAYBROOKE.

Encl. 2. in No. 43.

Enclosure 2. in No. 43.

PROGRESS RETURN of the SURVEYOR GENERAL'S DEPARTMENT, from 1st January to 31st December 1855, shewing the Number of Lots and Quantity of Land in each Province advertised for Sale in 1855, the Number of Lots and Quantity of Land sold in each Province, the Prices realized, the Fees recovered by the Surveyor General's Department, and the Expense of the Department during the same Period.

Advertised in 1855.

Number of Lots.		Contents.			Remarks.
		A.	R.	P.	
Central Province - - - -	46	7,438	3	18	Twenty trigonometrical stations were erected and observed from for the fixation of the surveys.
Western Province - - - -	25	177	2	35	
North-western Province - - -	3	1,159	–	23	
Total - - - - -	74	8,775	2	36	

Sold in 1855.

Number of Lots.		Contents. A.	R.	P.	Amounts for which sold. £	s.	d.	Remarks.
Central Province - -	64	8,744	3	12	17,122	10	7½	
Western Province - -	12	20	2	2	514*	15	0	* May be a few pounds in error, in consequence of incomplete return.
North-western Province -	5	1,465	—	16	2,130	0	0	
Eastern Province - -	2	148	1	8	152	0	0	The excess in quantity sold over that advertised is caused by some of the lots sold in 1855 having been advertised in previous years.
Total - -	83	10,378	2	38	19,919	5	7½	

AMOUNT of Fees recovered during the Year 1855, being in addition to the Sums realized by the Sales.

	£	s.	d.
Central Province - - - - - -	1,357	9	9
Western Province - - - - -	15	18	4
North-western Province - - - - -	6	7	10
Southern Province - - - - - -	0	12	6
	£1,380	7	11

EXPENSES of the Surveyor General's Department, for the Year 1855

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Salaries :—Fixed - - - -	3,090	19	1			
Provisional and temporary - -	656	6	0			
				3,747	5	1
Variable :—Contingencies - - -	53	2	5			
Transport - - - -	334	4	6			
Miscellaneous - - -	1,231	3	3¾			
				1,618	10	2¾
				£5,365	15	3¾

GENERAL REMARKS.

In addition to the regular surveys, other operations were attended to, such as surveys for local purposes, of roads for the connexion of the work, reconnoissances of the country, &c.; but, including these, the average cost per acre, 13*s.* 4*d.* (obtained by dividing the total of expenditure of the Department by the number of acres advertised), shows an improvement on the previous average, 17*s.*, quoted by the late committee in their Report on the Survey Department. The credit of this is due to Captain C. Sim, R.E., the Acting Surveyor General for eleven months of the period included in this Return.

(Signed) W. D. GOSSET.

Surveyor General's Office, Colombo,
May 8, 1856.

Enclosure 3. in No. 43.

Encl. 3. in No. 43.

FOURTEENTH REPORT of the CENTRAL SCHOOL COMMISSION for the Instruction of the Population of CEYLON.

IN presenting to the Legislative Council the Fourteenth Report of their proceedings, the Central School Commission have to explain, that during the past year a representation was made to Government of the inconvenience and uncertainty in the practice, hitherto followed, of framing Reports for different years in different months, and permission was requested and granted to hold back the Report for 1855, until the returns for the whole year were complete, and the operations of the Commission to the close of the year could be set forth in full, with the inspector's reports to the same date. The present Report therefore embraces the whole of the year 1855, and may be most fitly commenced by noticing a temporary change in the Commission, consequent on the death of their late Secretary.

The Legislative Council having in their Report on the fixed establishments of the colony recommended the union of the offices of Secretary to the Commission and Inspector of

CEYLON.

Schools, his Excellency the Governor embraced the opportunity occasioned by Mr. Fraser's death, of requesting the opinion of the Commission as to the desirableness of carrying out the suggestion of the Council, and, upon their recommendation, the Inspector was appointed to act as Secretary, pending the re-organisation of the educational department by the Secretary of State. The Colonial Secretary's letter, communicating the appointment, is printed in the Appendix, as the simplest method of stating the advantages which may be anticipated from this change.

Among the members of the Commission there have been but few changes; but the appointment of the Honourable George Lee, Esq., in the room of Mr. Gibson, was accepted by the Board with considerable gratification, as being the addition to their numbers of a gentleman whose great interest in education generally, and whose former connexion with the School Commission, in the capacity of Inspector and Secretary, would render his presence at their deliberations productive of the most beneficial results. Mr. Caulfeild's place has been filled up by the appointment of the Rev. J. Macbean, the Presbyterian Chaplain of Colombo. In the expectation of Bishop Bravi's speedy return, no steps have been taken to fill up the vacancy during his absence.

The Colombo Academy.

Of the several educational establishments, the Colombo Academy naturally claims the first notice. In March of last year, the principal of this institution obtained leave of absence to proceed to England on medical certificate. The Commission took this opportunity of recommending to Government that the plan proposed by the Select Committee of the Legislative Council, viz., the union of the Central School with the Academy, should be tried. The Rev. Dr. Kessen was therefore appointed to act as Principal of the Academy during Mr. Boake's absence, and the Central School was transferred to the Academy buildings. But the arrangement being only a temporary one, the two schools have been kept perfectly distinct, and no alteration has been made in the regulations, which affect the subjects of study, and the payment of fees in each.

His Excellency the Governor honoured this institution with a visit, not very long after his arrival in the colony, and was pleased to express his satisfaction with the result of the examination held in his presence.

The Native Normal Institution.

The close of last year witnessed the completion, by the Second Class of Native Normal Students, of their course of instruction, which had been extended a year beyond the period originally determined upon, with a view to their attention being directed to the study of English. Of the eighteen students, seven were found deserving of a first-class certificate; while two only, whose attendance at the institution had commenced at a late period, were found unfit for employment, and have been allowed to remain on further trial. Four have received appointments in the Central Province, one in the Southern, and seven in the Western,—leaving four still unprovided for. Applications however for schools have been received from several villages, and the Commission are only awaiting communications from the public officers to whom they have been referred for report. These young men have enjoyed much greater advantages than their predecessors, and the Commission indulge the hope that the benefits conferred by them upon the rising generation will be, in some degree, commensurate with the trouble and expenditure which have been incurred in fitting them for their respective posts.

In selecting a new class of students, the Commission were induced to try if the education imparted, together with the prospect, to the well-conducted, of Government employment, would not be a sufficient incitement to young men to come forward as candidates for admission into the institution, without the additional incentive of the sum of 6*l.* per annum hitherto granted as subsistence-money; and they have much pleasure in reporting that the experiment has been a successful one, there being many more applicants than can be received; several of whom, they are glad to observe, are sons of petty headmen, and have given up salaried appointments for the purpose of availing themselves of the instruction which this institution affords. It has also been determined that periodical examinations of the students shall be held with a view of ascertaining whether the pupils are making sufficient progress to warrant their being allowed to remain in the institution.

Female Superior Schools.

The Commission look with as much satisfaction on the result of these schools as on any part of their operations. The superior education imparted by the European ladies in charge of them has tended not a little to raise the intellectual and moral standard of the females in those classes of the community for whose special benefit they were established; and the advantages arising therefrom are fully appreciated by them. Two of the ladies, the Commission regret to say, are on leave at present from ill health, but the best arrangements that the circumstances of the colony admit of, have been made for the performance of their duties during their absence; and these institutions will not fail to receive unremitting attention. There are 319 names on the books, and upwards of 250 girls are reported to be in daily attendance.

ELEMENTARY AND MIXED SCHOOLS. (BOYS.)

Of these two classes of schools there are 43 distributed among the different provinces, in the following proportion:—

	Elementary.	Mixed.
Western	6	9
Southern	2	4
Central	1	11
Eastern	0	3
North-western	0	5
Northern	0	2
	9	34

In these schools no fewer than 3,637 boys are receiving the elements of a very fair English education; and in some of them considerable advancement has been obtained, particularly in the study of mathematics and general science. These do not include the schools in connection with the different missions in the Northern province.

The Inspector's Reports will give a tolerably correct idea of the state of these schools, both as to their efficiency and their defects. To the removal of the latter the attention of that officer is constantly directed; and he has ample instructions to adopt such remedies as he may think best calculated to secure this object. Irregularity in attendance is the great difficulty the masters have to encounter, and one which there is little hope of overcoming, until the parents take more interest in the education of their children, and give the masters the aid of their influence and authority.

The attention of the Commission having been directed to the desirableness of uniting some of the elementary schools in Colombo, and to the large sum annually expended under the head of "rent," it was determined some time ago, to reduce the number of these schools to three,—two for the northern, and one for the southern portion of the town, — and, when suitable localities for the schoolhouses were selected, to apply to Government for a grant of money for their erection. Considerable difficulty, however, has occurred in the selection of sites, and the Commission are not yet in a position to make the application to Government.

VERNACULAR SCHOOLS.

The vernacular schools are established chiefly in the Western Province. There are at present 29 boys' schools, containing 1215 scholars, and 6 girls' schools, with 153 scholars. The number in attendance has varied considerably in different localities; having been as high as 70 in the highest, and not more that 21 in the lowest.

The Commission have every reason to hope that considerable benefit is accruing to the rising generation in the neighbourhood of these schools, but they have not infrequently to regret great apathy on the part of the parents; and they feel that the present generation must to a great extent have passed away, before those results can be looked for, which the establishment of these schools was intended to promote.

INDUSTRIAL SCHOOLS.

The Commission have been applied to during the past year for aid towards the establishment of industrial schools at Kandy and Nuwara Eliya. In the belief that it is not consistent with the powers assigned to them to assist institutions of that nature, as such, but being unwilling at the same time to discourage the experiment, they have in the former case granted a master for the educational department, and in the latter have allowed the industrial branch to be engrafted upon the Government school already in existence at this station; and they look with a considerable degree of interest to the result of the praiseworthy exertions of those gentlemen by whom these schools have been commenced.

NORTHERN MISSIONS.

The Commission have learnt, with great regret, that the American missionaries in the Northern Province have declined, for reasons which it is not necessary to specify, any longer to accept the sum of 200*l.*, hitherto granted annually in aid of their schools; and they take this opportunity of thanking those gentlemen for the zeal and energy which they have displayed in the promotion of education, and of wishing them every success in carrying out those changes in their system, which have led, in some degree, to the termination of their more immediate connection with the Commission. The missionaries of the Roman Catholic, Church, and Wesleyan missions still continue to receive their grants; and the Commission hope, therefore, that it will not be found necessary to make any change in the arrangements which haue hitherto been adopted by them for the promotion of education in the peninsula of Jaffna.

CEYLON.

The number of schools and of pupils in attendance during the past year was as follows:—

	Schools.	Pupils.
American mission	13	423
Roman Catholic missions	2	140
Church missions	7	320
Wesleyan missions	2	150

SUB-COMMITTEES AND SUPERINTENDENTS.

The Commission cannot conclude their Report without an expression of their thanks to the various Sub-Committees, and especially those of Kandy and Galle, and to many of the superintendents, for the interest they have evinced in the schools under their charge; but they would desire to impress upon others of the latter a fuller sense of the fact, that upon their energy and vigilance mainly depends the success of the efforts made to maintain in a creditable state the schools scattered over the country. The Commission would esteem it a favour if the superintendents could make it consistent with their convenience to examine their schools monthly in some at least of the subjects taught in the different classes, noting down in the record book, for transmission to this Board, the subjects in which the children were examined, and any opinion they may have been able to form as to the progress they were making. This would act as a constant stimulus to the masters, and would tend very considerably to increase their efficiency.

The Auditor-General's statement of the expenditure for education, during the year ending December 31st, 1855, will be found in the Appendix.

APPENDIX.

Colonial Secretary's Office, Colombo,
27th October 1855.

GENTLEMEN,

I am directed to acquaint you that his Excellency the Governor has been pleased, in approval of your recommendation, to nominate the Inspector of Schools to perform the duties of Secretary to the Commission pending the instructions of the Secretary of State in regard to the future organization of the educational department, and that gentleman has been ordered to enter upon the duties of the office without delay.

2. The Governor deems it right to observe, that in thus uniting the offices of Inspector and Secretary, he has had regard to the desirableness of relieving the Commission of much that has hitherto unnecessarily occupied the time and attention of its members; and his Excellency is pleased to direct that in future the functions of the Commission shall consist chiefly in considering the numerous important questions of principle that will naturally arise in connexion with the subject of education, matters of mere ordinary detail and official routine being attended to as they arise by the Secretary, under the directions of the President of the Commission, with whom it will rest to instruct the Secretary as to what matters it will be necessary to lay before the Board.

3. The Governor anticipates that considerable advantage will accrue to the cause of education in the colony from the additional attention which the Commission will thus be enabled to devote to many points of interest and importance, and his Excellency looks forward with confidence to the exercise of the same degree of energy and discretion that has hitherto characterized their proceedings.

I have, &c.,
P. W. BRAYBROOKE,
Asst. Col. Secretary.

The President and Members of
the Central School Commission.

Inspector's Reports for 1855.

WESTERN PROVINCE—ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS.

NEGOMBO.

I was sorry to find this school still suffering to a considerable extent from the effects of the sickness and distress of the previous year. So many boys had been removed by death and other causes that the numbers in attendance had been considerably reduced, and of those present so many were new boys that the work of the school had had to be commenced as it were de novo, and there was consequently but a poor result to exhibit, though it is but due to Mr. Nicholas to add that no pains had been spared on his part to make the best of the untoward circumstances in which he had been placed.

Of 38 boys on the list 35 were present, half of whom were in the last class.

The boys of Class I. were examined in the books of Job, Jonah, Jeremiah, and Daniel, and in the Life of Christ; the answering was very satisfactory from all but one. They read from the History of England very well, and answered quite as creditably as I could expect. Two had advanced as far as fractions; the remaining three were working compound rules, as were also the boys of Class II. In geography, Classes I. and II. passed

a satisfactory examination on Europe and Asia, so far as the text book was concerned; but the maps were in such a tattered condition that it was almost impossible to use them. The reading lesson of Classes II. and III. was creditably gone through, and their sums worked correctly The boys of Class IV. are divided into three sections, not, however, differing very widely from each other; and I was glad to find all making satisfactory progress.

I could not but sympathise very much with the master under his extremely discouraging circumstances, and I sincerely hope that at my next visit I shall find he has had much less to try his patience than has been his lot during the last eighteen months.

I was glad to see that the burial ground close to the school was being enclosed by a high wall; this is a great improvement, but it would be much better that it should be closed altogether. Although a portion of the adjoining garden has been annexed to it, it is still far too small for the requirements of the town, and the frequent exposure of semi-putrid matter must be incompatible with the healthiness of the people.

Caltura.

Changes of the character intimated in my last Report having been carried out, there was a manifest improvement in every respect, although they had not been sufficiently long in operation to produce their full effect. Mr. Garth took charge of the school in September 1854, at which time there were 50 on the list, with an average attendance of 43. In six months the numbers were increased to 68, with an average attendance of upwards of 50. But the difference was most marked in the different manner in which the boys had been taught. They had not, it is true, learnt very much, for, from previous mismanagement, Mr. Garth had experienced considerable difficulty in teaching them; but what they had learnt they knew thoroughly. Mr. Garth commenced all their subjects de novo, proceeding slowly, but surely, according to their attention and progress.

Class I. and II. answered very satisfactorily in the earlier chapters of Genesis and St. Matthew. Eight boys in Class I. worked examples in reduction, and eight in compound multiplication; all were worked correctly, but the latter not very readily. Their reading from Book III. was very fair, and their answering gave decisive proof of the great pains that had been taken to convey to them the meaning of what they read. They had also been well grounded in the first principles of grammar, and wrote to dictation with tolerable accuracy. In geography, Classes I. and II. evinced a very creditable acquaintance with the maps of Europe and Asia. Class II. read from Book II. very nicely, and their answering was quite as good as could be expected from their imperfect knowledge of English. Five worked examples in compound division, and ten in the simple rules. The two lower classes have not advanced beyond words of three or four letters; but I have every hope that their progress will be rapid.

There was no writing in the school, there being no table sufficiently steady for the purpose. The state of the furniture in this school was reported on last year, and Mr. Garth had applied to remove the tables from Morottoo, but they had not yet been sent to him. It is very desirable that this should be attended to without delay.

MIXED SCHOOLS.

Kaigalle.

The attendance at this school still continues very small; 14 were present at the examination, but the average attendance during the previous six months had not exceeded eight. Religious instruction is imparted to the whole school orally from Watts's Scripture History; in the Old Testament the examination extended to Isaac's marriage, and in the New, to Christ's visit to Jerusalem with his parents. Great pains had evidently been taken to instruct all the children, for there was scarcely a single question missed by the boy to whom it was put. One boy was working practice, two reduction of money, two compound subtraction, and one simple division; the examples were worked correctly, but there was a want of quickness. The First Class read a passage in the Singhalese and English Reading Book (Balaprabodhana), both in English and Singhalese, very nicely indeed, and answered satisfactorily. The Second Class read Book II. in English and translated it into Singhalese, answering in the latter language very satisfactorily. Four boys passed a very creditable examination on the map of Ceylon. The writing, both in English and Singhalese, was very fair; in every thing, indeed, the school bore marks of being well attended to.

Avishawelle.

There are 15 boys on the list, all of whom were present on the day of examination, but the daily attendance is very small; six boys are divided into three classes, the rest repeat their lessons singly. In Class I. there is one boy, sixteen years old, not likely to remain long at school; he formerly attended the school, but left it for a year, and returned the previous month; his reading was not at all good, and he was not able to answer a single question, even as to the meaning of single words, as "wilderness, fasting," &c., he writes a good hand, but could not work examples in simple addition correctly. The reading lesson of Class II. did not contain words of more than two syllables, but they made several mistakes; and their translation of clauses was very incorrect; they read

CEYLON.

Balaprabodhana pretty fairly, and answered tolerably well. The two boys of Class III. attempted syllables of two letters, but failed. Of the rest, one attempted words of three and four letters, but failed. He does not learn Singhalese because his parents do not wish it. Another read the volume of the Instructor which contains ancient history, but did not understand a word of it; he read Balaprabodhana pretty well, and answered satisfactorily. Two attempted Balaprabodhana, but read very badly, merely repeating it by rote; three were able to read words of three letters, but there had evidently been no attempt at explanation. The state of this school was most unsatisfactory; the master evidently pays but little attention to it. I do not think there is any necessity for a mixed school at this station; a vernacular one would fully meet all its educational wants.

Ratnapoora.

I was sorry to find that this school is still held in the same unsuitable place—a small verandah, close upon a narrow street in the middle of the Bazaar, and exposed to the sun almost immediately after mid-day. I was informed that the locality was an objection which prevented several from attending. The number on the list was 16, 15 of whom attended regularly; four were able to read St. Matthew's Gospel and the Third Daily Lesson Book very nicely, and showed by their answering that considerable pains had been taken to make them remember and understand what they had read; they worked examples in all the simple rules correctly and quickly; their penmanship was very creditable. Class II. were reading Daily Lesson Book, No. II., a second time; their pronunciation was good, and their spelling and translation of single words correct. Class III. had just begun the second book, and were making satisfactory progress. Class IV. were reading words of four and five letters. Most of the children are very young; but I had every reason to believe that they were constantly and carefully attended to.

Kandane.

On list 57; average attendance 48, of whom 42 were present at the examination, several being absent with leave, owing to the prevalence of small pox.

Class I. and II. read the Acts of the Apostles in Singhalese extremely well, and answered most satisfactorily. The English reading book of Class I. is Daily Lesson Book III., selections from which they appear to understand very well. They have advanced as far as practice in arithmetic, and the verbs in grammar.

The boys of Class II, read a lesson in Book II. correctly and intelligently, and answered both in it and other parts of the book satisfactorily. They worked examples in compound division, and wrote to dictation with remarkable correctness. Their writing was very good indeed, and had evidently been well attended to.

Class III. is divided into two sections, the upper one reading Book II., and the lower, Book I. Both gave evidence of great attention on the part of the master, to whose continued efficiency as a teacher I have much pleasure in again bearing testimony. He is very much in want of a black board and maps of the world and Palestine. The average attendance being 50, he is, I believe, entitled to an assistant, and he certainly requires one for the lower classes. The assistant at Dandoogama might be removed to this school, with a warning for his past neglect.

Pantura.

Mr. Van Cuylenoerg having been absent for some days before my visit, in consequence of the dangerous illness of his wife, and the death of one of his children, the school was naturally, to a certain extent, under a disadvantage; but the result of the examination was such as to prove his continued attention to it. The number on the list is 51, and the average attendance 45. Classes I. and II. were examined in the books of Job, Jeremiah, and Daniel, and the history of the Jews after their return from captivity; the answering was not quite so general as I should wish to see it, but very correct from those who did take part in it. In geography also, these two classes were united, and passed an extremely creditable examination in the maps of Europe and Asia. The boys of Class I. read from Book IV. with fluency and intelligence, and answered most satisfactorily: their parsing was very fair, and they wrote to dictation with tolerable accuracy. Seven worked examples in fractions, and two in proportion, with ease and accuracy. The reading of Class II. was very fair, and their answering satisfactory. Seven worked examples in simple proportion, and nine in the compound rules. Class III. answered very creditably in Singhalese on the Gospel of St. Luke, read and spelt lessons in Book II., and worked examples in the three first simple rules. The copy books of the whole school were in very good order, and gave proof of great attention on Mr. Van Cuylenberg's part.

Wadoowa.

The attendance of this school continues steady, and is, I believe, as great as can be expected from the locality. There are 30 boys on the list, with an average attendance of 27. The boys of Class I. are well up in the history of the Pentateuch and the Gospels; and those of Class II. in the latter. Examples in partnership and practice

were worked by Class I., and in the compound rules by Class II. The results were correctly brought out, but there was a want of quickness in performing the operations. The two classes passed a very creditable examination on Europe and Asia; and the reading and answering of both in Books II. and III. were satisfactory. Their knowledge of grammar is very fair, and their writing very good indeed. Class III. were examined in St. Matthew's Gospel in Singhalese, and acquitted themselves very creditably; they worked examples in the three first simple rules correctly and quickly, and read and translated simple sentences very fairly. The whole school bore marks of Mr. Parys' continued attention and diligence.

Caltura.—Girls.

Thre are 51 girls on the lst, of whom 18 learn English only, 10 learn English and Singhalese, and 23 learn Singhalese only. The elder girls read very nicely indeed, their pronunciation being unusually correct, and their answering satisfactory, both in the Gospel History and in several lessons of Book III. Only one girl was working examples in compound multiplication; the rest were in the simple rules; all worked correctly. The girls of Class II. are very young, but read very nicely, and spell correctly. The other children also have made quite as much progress as could be expected.

It is not at all easy to classify the girls who learn Singhalese, owing to the irregularity of their attendance, Mrs. Poppenbeek having succeeded in inducing some to attend her private school, who yet occasionally go back to the Government school. Twelve of the elder girls can read the New Testament fluently, and have a tolerably good knowledge of the principal events in our Saviour's Life. They also work examples in subtraction. The next six girls can read Balaprabodhana pretty well; the remainder are reading words of two and three letters, or are still in the alphabet.

The school had of course been considerably affected by the disturbance arising from Mrs. Poppenbeek's dismissal; but I hope that has nearly subsided, and that the school will go on quietly but successfully. I believe there is no superintendent at present. The school being held in the Wesleyan Mission Chapel, close to the assistant missionary's residence, it would be well, I think, to place it under his supervision.

VERNACULAR SCHOOLS.

Diwulpitiya.—Girls.

On arriving at this school between 10 and 11 A.M. I found neither mistress nor girls present. I sent for the mistress, but she was only able to collect a few little girls, none of whom could read; the daily attendance was said to be 20. The school is situated within a quarter of a mile of one of the Church Mission schools, and, if it is continued, might be placed under the superintendence of the Rev. Mr. Wood, of Cotta, in whose district it is.

Battacatra.—Girls.

This school had been moved from one part of the district to another, a few days before my visit, and was not, therefore, in full operation. Of 13 girls on the list, 7 were present, of whom one was able to read. Mr. Wood anticipates a much greater attendance than was ever likely to be procured in the former locality.

Kottawa.—Girls.

Of 40 children on the list, 22 were present; the attendance during last year ranged from 18 to 25, and up to the date of my visit there had not been fewer than 18 in attendance this year. I was pleased to see a much greater proportion of grown-up girls than is generally met with in schools of this class.

In Class I., twelve were said to be able to read the New Testament, but on attempting it none could read at all well, except the first girl, who is a member of the mistress's family; the rest made frequent mistakes, and did not appear to understand what they were reading. Six worked examples in subtraction correctly, explaining the principle satisfactorily, and two in addition.

In Class II., three were tried in Balaprabodhana, but evidently read it entirely from memory.

In Class III., only one girl was able to read words of two letters.

Needlework is supplied by the mistress, and by the girls themselves: it appeared to consist chiefly in marking letters and other ornaments on different articles of clothing.

Kottawa.—Boys.

This school commenced with, last year, 50 boys, but dwindled down to 38, and of these not more than half have been regular in attendance. In Class I., three boys read the New Testament very nicely, their pronunciation being free from the usual faults, their mode of reading intelligent, and their answering very satisfactory. One worked examples in compound addition, and the others in simple multiplication and division. They were also well acquainted with the early part of Watts's Scripture History. The boys of

CEYLON.

Class II. read Balaprabodhana very fairly; but the two lower classes had not made much progress.

This school is situated on the borders of the Church Missionary district, and might with advantage be placed under the superintendence of the Rev. Mr. Wood, who has schools in the surrounding villages. I directed the master to pay a little attention to the girls' school, particularly with reference to their reading, and the introduction of Watts's Scripture History.

HORAGOLLE.

This school has been gradually decreasing in numbers, until at length it can scarcely be said to be in existence. During last year the average attendance up to May was 11; in June and July there was no attendance at all; and from August the average was 3. At the time of my visit there were only 10 on the list, of whom 5 were in attendance. The reason assigned by the master for this unsatisfactory state of things was, that the boys were employed by their parents, who had been in great distress for several months of the year. The locality too appears to be unsuitable, for there is no village near the school, and the only circumstance in favour of its present position is the fact of its being close to the residence of the modliar, who is the superintendent. He, however, is of opinion that the school had much better be removed to Poogooda or Giridra, populous villages on the cross road from Veyangodde to Hangwelle.

Of the boys in attendance, two read St. Mark's Gospel very well indeed, and answered satisfactorily; one of them worked examples in multiplication correctly. In Class II. one read words of three letters pretty well, but failed in an attempt to work an addition sum.

WEWELDENIYA.

The attendance at this school has not been at all good, but the master has been very attentive to those who were present; indeed he is one of our best vernacular masters. There are 24 boys on the list, of whom 18 were present at the examination; but the average attendance during the four months previous had not exceeded 10. In Class I. there were 5, in II. 10, and in III. 9 boys. Classes I. and II. read a chapter from St. Luke's Gospel very well indeed, and their answering on the Gospel History was satisfactory. They had only just commenced Watts's Scripture History, but had learnt it well. One worked examples in compound proportion, three in compound, and three in simple multiplication. They passed a very creditable examination on the Singhalese map of Ceylon, but had only learnt one chapter in the geography, on which they answered correctly. In Class III., two read words of two syllables; the rest were beginning the alphabet. The great distress in the country had affected the regularity of the attendance very considerably, many of the boys being kept away by their parents to catch fish, and for other occupations in which they do not generally employ them.

HANGWELLE.

Of 26 boys on the list, 17 were present; but the average attendance during the previous six months had been much less. The first class read a chapter in the Acts very fairly, but did not appear to remember much of what they had read before. I gave them a lesson in Watts' to shew the master how to use it, and directed him to commence it at once. They all worked subtraction correctly and quickly. Their Singhalese copies were nicely written, and kept clean. The second class attempted a chapter in St. John's Gospel, but did not read at all well, nor was their answering satisfactory. I directed them to be put back to Balaprabodhana. The lowest class were learning spelling book and alphabet; but were not progressing satisfactorily. I was not at all pleased with the state of this school. With so few in attendance, those who are present ought to be well attended to.

BALANGODDE.

On the list, 13; present, 10. There did not appear to have been more than 15 or 16 boys on the list during the previous year, and of these one fourth was always absent. They ask for leave on the most trifling grounds; and if it is refused they stay away for several days. The remonstrances of the master and the advice of the korale are alike unheeded by them. Classes I. and II. read a chapter in St. Mark's Gospel together. In the former, containing four boys, two were able to read very well indeed; but the other two, not having been present for some time, appeared to have forgotten all they knew. None of the boys in Class II. could read at all well. Their answering on the passage read was tolerably good; but their recollection of previous chapters was very imperfect. One worked examples in compound proportion, one in compound multiplication, and one in simple division; and I was very much pleased with the quickness of their working, and with the intelligence with which they answered my questions on the principles of the different operations. Class III. read Balaprabodhana very fairly, and answered satisfactorily. Some of them learn English, and are progressing satisfactorily. Besides his ordinary school work, the master is frequently engaged in instructing young men in the neighbourhood, who are employed as vidahns, &c., and come to him chiefly for the

purpose of learning arithmetic. Although, therefore, the good apparently resulting from this school is not of any very great amount, yet I hope that it is producing some effect upon the neighbourhood, especially by the good example of the master, whose conduct in every respect is, I believe, most praiseworthy.

Minuwangodde.

On the list, 32 ; present, 24; average attendance during previous month, 21. During the last year there was a great deal of sickness in this district. In June the school was closed on account of the master's illness, and in July there was a very poor attendance. After that the average number was about 20. Nearly all the boys in attendance were new boys; many of the former scholars having died, and others having left school. They are divided into two classes, containing 14 and 18 boys respectively. The boys of Class I. read a chapter in St. Luke's Gospel very well indeed, and answered satisfactorily. Six of them worked examples in multiplication, and four in subtraction, correctly and with tolerable quickness. Their writing was not very good, owing to their not having been kept long enough at large text. In Class II. three boys had just commenced Balaprabodhana; but the rest were only reading words of two letters.

There has been no superintendent to this school for some time. I would suggest that Mr. Mendis, the modliar of the district and secretary of the Sub-Committee, be requested to undertake the superintendence of it.

Katane.

On the list, 24; average attendance varies from 10 to 15 in different months.

Since the change in the master, recommended by me last year, this school has improved very much indeed. I never knew it in such good order before, Notwithstanding great irregularity in attendance, all the boys had evidently been carefully attended to. This was particularly shown by the result of the examination in arithmetic. Not a single example was incorrectly worked by any of the boys: a result very seldom witnessed, and which could not arise from the boys copying from each other, as it is my practice to give a different sum to each boy. Religious instruction is chiefly imparted orally from Watts' and a Harmony of the Gospels, the passages referred to being also read by the boys. The examination extended from the creation to the call of Abraham, including, from the New Testament, the history of John the Baptist and the life of our Saviour up to His first miracle. The answering was most satisfactory. Not a single question was missed. The answering in the first chapter of the History of Ceylon was very satisfactory, and their reading extremely correct. Two worked examples in the compound rules, and two in the simple ones, correctly and quickly. Their writing was very fair. In Class II. the reading of Balaprabodhana was very good, and the answering correct. They write pretty well on slates, and work examples in simple addition. The boys of Class III. have read different portions of the Spelling Book, and were all making satisfactory progress.

Seedoowa.

I was glad to find this school still retaining its good position, both in respect of attendance and of progress. The attendance had never been less than 40 during the previous six months; and the answering in the different subjects was very creditable.

In Class I., the examination in the Old Testament embraced the reigns of Saul, David, Solomon, and their successors in both kingdoms; and in the New, the greater part of our Saviour's life. In the latter they were joined by Class II.

Class I. have nearly gone through the History of Ceylon. They read Singhalese very well indeed, and related the principal events with tolerable accuracy. In geography, they passed a creditable examination in the general view of the four quarters, particularly of Asia, but were not so well acquainted with the geography of Ceylon as they ought to be. Four worked examples in practice, three in compound division, three in simple division, and ten in multiplication. With the exception of three of the last, all were worked quickly and correctly. The boys of Class III. read Balaprabodhana very well indeed, and answered satisfactorily. They also worked examples in addition and subtraction. The children in Class IV. are making satisfactory progress in the earlier stages.

The assistant is evidently much more attentive than he used to be, and the school is consequently in better order. I was informed by the master that the parents of many of the children are anxious for them to learn English, and that many of the former pupils would return if such an arrangement were sanctioned. The people of this village having been for many years under the influence of Christian instruction through the Wesleyan Mission, are much more intelligent than many of their neighbours, and would, I am sure, appreciate such an addition to the advantages their children already enjoy.

Dandoogama.

The establishment of a Roman Catholic School in April last has had a considerable effect on the attendance at this school, 40 boys having left for the purpose of attending the former, leaving 60 names on the list, with an average attendance of forty.

CEYLON.

Class I. 31 boys. Read a chapter in St. Mark's Gospel, and answered satisfactorily in the Gospel History, as also in that of the Old Testament down to the death of Moses They had only lately begun the geography of Ceylon, but were thoroughly acquainted with the little they had learnt. Two worked examples in simple proportion, and two in compound division; but the rest had not advanced beyond the simple rules. All the examples were worked correctly and with tolerable quickness. Their writing was very good indeed.

The boys of Class II. read Balaprabodhana very well, and answered satisfactorily. They attempted examples in addition, but were not very successful.

In Class III. twelve were reading the Spelling Book, and the rest learning the alphabet; both divisions were making satisfactory progress.

The average attendance being now reduced to 40, there is no actual need of the services of the assistant master, who, I regret to say, is not nearly so attentive as he ought to be, frequently absenting himself on insufficient grounds, and scarcely ever being in attendance at the proper time.

Bandaragama.

The number on the list at this school is 35; but, owing partly to the late distress, and partly to the services of the boys being required in the fields, the average attendance for some time had been less than 20. There were 24 present on the day of inspection.

The boys of Class I. were examined in the Gospel of St. Luke, and answered remarkably well. Their reading from the History of Ceylon was fluent, and free from the usual faults, and their recollection of what they had read was tolerably correct. They worked examples in long multiplication quickly and correctly. Their writing was very fair. The boys of Class II. read a passage from Balaprabodhana very nicely indeed, and their answering on several of the lessons was very satisfactory. Two worked examples in subtraction and two in addition. Those of Class III. read words of two letters, and write figures on slates. The last class are still in the alphabet.

The master of this school is evidently attentive to his duties, and the result is satisfactory.

Weedagama.—Girls.

The number on the list is 34, and the average attendance appears to be about 20. The state of the school is most unsatisfactory. There is one young woman kept at the head of it who can certainly read very well indeed, but evidently never has a single question put to her, and could not therefore answer any of mine; others presented themselves with the favourite chapter, St. Matthew V., open, but on turning to another chapter could not read at all, and the mistress confessed that they had read that chapter till they knew it by heart. I then tried both Class I. and II., except the first girl, in easy lessons in Balaprabodhana, but they could scarcely read them, and the lower classes were in a similar condition. I spoke very seriously to the mistress about her evident neglect, and warned her of the consequences of a continuance of it.

Desaster Caltura.—Girls.

On the list 25; average attendance 10 or 12. The mistress complains of great irregularity on the part of the children. Since Mr. Parys removed to Pantura there has been no superintendent. It would be well, I think, to ask Mr. De Hoedt to take charge of it. The upper girls professed to be reading St. Matthew's Gospel, but they made several mistakes, and did not read at all intelligently, nor was their answering at all satisfactory. The other classes have made but very little progress, and are in anything but a creditable state.

Dodangodde.

On the list 24; average attendance 18.

Of the boys now in attendance only seven were present at the last examination. The reading of Class I. was quite free from the usual fault, fluent, and intelligent; and their answering satisfactory both in the Gospel History and the early portion of the History of Ceylon. Two worked examples in reduction, and two in compound division, with readiness and accuracy. Their writing was not so good as in the generality of schools. The boys of Class II. had been extremely irregular in their attendance; one of them had not been present for a month; and the result was that their reading and answering were both unsatisfactory. The two lower classes are making good progress.

The modliar of the Corle, who resides in this village, confirmed the master's statement as to the irregular attendance of the children, and assured me of the master's constant attention to his duties.

Payagalle.

I was quite struck, on entering this school, with the youthful appearance of all the children, and found upon inquiry that nearly all had been newly admitted during the past year. The boys of Class I. answered remarkably well in the early history both of the Old and New Testaments; read a lesson in the History of Ceylon with fluency and intelligence, and worked examples in the compound rules.

The reading of Class II. in Balaprabodhana was, with a few exceptions, correct, and their answering satisfactory; they worked examples in simple addition. The boys of Class III. have gone through the Spelling Book, and read the parable of the Prodigal Son very nicely. Those of Class IV. can read words of three letters without hesitation.

The writing of the whole school was very creditable. I had every reason to feel satisfied with the state of the school and with the attention of the masters.

Barbaryn.

On list 72; present 58.

The answering of Class I. on the Book of Genesis and St. Matthew was satisfactory, except from two or three who had been lately moved up. Their reading from the History of Ceylon was fluent and intelligent, and their recollection of what they had read correct. They had not learnt much of the geography of Ceylon, but what they had learnt they remembered very well. They worked examples in simple multiplication. Their writing was very good. The answering of Class II. from the Harmony of the Gospels was not very good, owing, I suspect, to a defect in the method of communicating instruction orally; but their reading and answering from Balaprabodhana were both very satisfactory. They worked examples in simple addition. The boys of Class III. read words of three letters without hesitation. The alphabet class was not in very good order, being taught too much by rote; an error against which I cautioned the master, pointing out the best way of remedying it. I have never known this school in so good a condition before; the master is evidently very attentive. The room is sadly too small for the numbers in attendance. It would be well if a small addition could be made to the rent for the purpose of securing more suitable premises.

SOUTHERN PROVINCE.—GALLE.

Elementary School.

I was sorry to find the number in attendance at this school smaller than on former occasions, and still more so to observe how much younger they were than those who were formerly presented for examination. The natural consequence of this was of course a considerable lowering in the standard of education, and an apparent falling off in the school. But I have much pleasure in being able to bear testimony to the continuance of Mr. Anthoniesz' zeal and activity in the discharge of his duties, under what cannot but be very discouraging circumstances.

There were 45 on the list, and an average attendance of 37. Class I. 4; II. 17; III. 20; IV. 4. Classes I. and II. are under Mr. Anthoniesz, and Classes III. and IV. under the assistant.

Class I. In religious instruction, besides the principal prophecies of Daniel, the attention of this class had been directed to the first six chapters of Horne's Introduction, and the history of the Jews as contained in Tytler; their answering in all these subjects was very satisfactory. They read a passage from Book V. with great fluency and intelligence; their answering showed that they comprehended its meaning. They passed a very creditable examination in the history of ancient Rome, as given in Tytler, and, in conjunction with Class II., answered most satisfactorily in the geography of Africa and America. In arithmetic, the examination, which extended to fractions, I observed a want of precision in working the sums, which I brought to Mr. Anthoniesz' notice. The result in algebra and Euclid was not very satisfactory; but the best boys were absent on both the days of my visit, and of the two who were present I have always observed one to be an extremely careless and inattentive lad.

Class II. was examined in the Book of Joshua and the early chapters of the Acts of the Apostles; their answering was very satisfactory, except from two boys, one of whom had been lately admitted, and the other had been absent for two months. Their reading on Book IV. was fluent and intelligible, and their answering satisfactory; their parsing was not correct, and only half wrote correctly to dictation. The examples in arithmetic, extending from long division to proportion, were worked correctly and with tolerable quickness. Three worked examples in mensuration of superficies correctly, and proved the early Propositions of Euclid, Book I., very creditably.

Of Class III. 15 boys were present; their answering in the first half of the Book of Genesis, and in the early history of John the Baptist and our Saviour, was very satisfactory, so far as a few were concerned, but it was not so general as I could have wished. Three worked examples in division correctly; but half of the ten who attempted multiplication failed. Their answering on the maps of Europe and Asia was very creditable. Some read very nicely indeed, but others, being very young, were scarcely up to the Third Book; their spelling was remarkably correct. The four boys of Class IV. were all present, and appeared to be making fair progress. The writing of the whole school is evidently well attended to.

Galle Mixed School.

There having been some misunderstanding connected with the change of the head master of this school, the progress of the boys had been somewhat impeded; but matters

CEYLON.

were quickly settling down at the time of my visit, and I have no doubt that ere long the favourable results of the change will be abundantly evident.

Mr. Jansz took charge of the school on the 1st of March. There were then 118 on the list, with an attendance of 57. During that month 29 left, of whom 16 were re-admitted, together with 12 new boys. There were 126 on the list at the time of my visit. The attendance in April was 65, but during the first week of May there were 85.

Class I. 12; II. 18; III. 20; IV. 32; V. 30.

Classes I. and II. were examined together in the history of the Israelites in Egypt and the Wilderness; their answering was remarkably good. The reading of Class I. in Book IV. was very correct, and their answering satisfactory. The examination in grammar was also creditable. Of six who attempted simple proportion four worked the examples correctly, and with considerable quickness. In geography their answering from the text-book was satisfactory, but there being no maps in the school they have no practice in a very important branch of the subject.

Most of the boys in Class II. read very nicely, but they scarcely know sufficient English to answer anything beyond the simplest questions. They had only just commenced grammar. Many of them were tolerably well acquainted with the map of Ceylon. Those who attempted compound multiplication worked the examples correctly, but the rest failed in simple division.

Of Class III. half the boys answered in the history of Jacob and Joseph in Singhalese, but the other half remained silent, a proof of unequal attention on the part of the master, against which I cautioned him. All read Book II. very nicely indeed, and so far as their knowledge of English went their answering was intelligent. Half of them worked examples in multiplication correctly, and pointed out a few of the principal places on the map of Ceylon. Their reading in Singhalese was fluent and intelligent, and their answering satisfactory.

The boys of Class IV. are equal to those of Class III. in their knowledge of English, and are working addition and subtraction.

Of Class IV. 14 boys read very fairly, and spelt single words and translated them into Singhalese quite correctly. The rest were reading words of two letters, or were still learning the alphabet, most of them having been newly admitted.

Great attention is paid to the writing of the whole school, and the progress is very satisfactory.

Galle.—Girls School.

There are 68 girls on the list in this school, and the average attendance is upwards of 50; but the majority of them are very young, and form the third class, which contains 40 children. There is a great want of books among the children, which is of course a great hindrance to their progress; but Mrs. Braybrooke hopes soon to remedy that evil by a supply of suitable books from England. I examined the first class in Scripture, Roman history, geography, and arithmetic; but had great difficulty in making the girls speak out. So far, however, as I could judge, they were making satisfactory progress in the different branches. The girls of Class II. are under Mr. Anthoniesz' care, and are progressing quite as satisfactorily as from their age and other circumstances could be expected. Class III., which is under Mrs. Anthoniesz, is divided into two parts; the upper part reading Book II., and the rest mere beginners. With the exception of a few girls in the upper classes, the children appear to be extremely poor, and not of a class to require so great an amount of expenditure.

Belligam.

It appears that Mr. De Zilva received an extract from the Commission's proceedings directing him to take charge of the Belligam school on the 7th of February; but having forwarded a remonstrance to the Commission, strongly supported, as he understood, by the Galle Sub-Committee, he did not proceed to his station, but went to Colombo. Having received a second communication on the 28th March, he proceeded to Belligam, but was unable to open the school on account of the prevalence of small-pox; and, with Mr. Gibson's consent, it was held in abeyance until after the Easter vacation; but even since that there had not been more than four or five boys in attendance. On the day of my visit there were eight present, of whom four had been newly admitted. There was every prospect, however, of the attendance being quickly brought up to its former standard; indeed the master had had the promise of several new boys.

Matura.

The number on the list in this school was 56, with an average attendance of 42. At least half of the boys had been admitted during the past year. Class I. 9; II. 15; III. 21; IV. 11.

In Class IV. eight boys were present, of whom two were learning the alphabet, three had gone over a few pages of Book I., and three had read the whole book. These last read very fairly, and spelt and translated single words correctly.

The boys of Class III. are not yet able to read the Bible, and do not understand sufficient Singhalese to profit by oral instruction. All, except one or two, read Book II.

correctly, and with tolerable intelligence. Their spelling was correct, and their answering quite as good as could be expected from such young children. Two worked examples correctly in reduction; three, with a slight mistake, in long division; four in multiplication; and four in addition. Their penmanship is evidently well attended to.

Classes I. and II. were examined together in Watts's Scripture History; the two eldest boys answered remarkably well in the whole book; the remainder of Class I. and the boys of Class II. were well acquainted with the history up to the time of Joshua. Class I. have read through the course of general history in Book IV., and appeared to have a very correct recollection of it; their reading was fluent and intelligent, and their answering on the passage satisfactory. All, except two, wrote correctly to dictation. Two in Class I. worked examples in compound proportion, and in the early rules of fractions, quite correctly. The remainder of Class I., and four boys in Class II., worked examples in reduction, three in long division, and four in multiplication. The two classes were united in geography, and passed a very creditable examination on the maps of Europe and Asia. Only one or two, who had been lately promoted, appeared to require more practice. Class II. read a passage from Book III. nicely indeed, and answered most satisfactorily. They wrote to dictation with tolerable correctness. The penmanship of both classes was extremely good.

I have much pleasure in again bearing testimony to the diligence evinced by both the masters in this school, as proved by the correct answering in the different branches. I hope that Mr. Ernst's efficient services will be rewarded by an increase in his salary, which he has often solicited.

Dondra.

This school had been removed into the centre of the village again, the former locality being too distant. There were 23 boys on the list, of whom 21 were present; and the returns for the first four months of this year showed an average of 15. I suspect, however, that the attendance is very irregular as to time, and that there are seldom more than six or eight boys present at a time. Class I. 6; II. 3; III. 6; IV. 8.

In Class I. one boy was able to read pretty well, but he has been several years in the school; the rest read without intelligence, and could not answer a single question satisfactorily. The same boy was able to work division, but the rest could only read figures. In Class II. one boy was present who attempted to read Balaprabodhana, but failed. In Class III. one boy read single words of four letters pretty well, but failed to read a passage containing shorter words; one read words of three letters, but failed to read short sentences of two letters; two read words of two letters pretty well, and two failed. The boys of Class IV. had learnt a few lines of the "Hodiya," but so completely by rote that they knew scarcely a single letter when pointed to irregularly.

The inhabitants of this village profess to care nothing about the education of their children; nor does the result of an experiment, now continued for several years, seem to justify any further expenditure in their behalf.

Akinimana.

There has been a change in the master of this school since my last visit, which has been attended so far by favourable results. The number of boys on the list is 31, with an average attendance of 19. As usual in our vernacular schools, by far the greater number are in the lower class. Classes I. 4; II. 4; III. 10; IV. 13. The boys in the first two classes have gone over the first 20 chapters of Genesis, can read Singhalese pretty well, and are working in different stages in the first three simple rules. The lower boys are mere beginners, but are in a more hopeful condition than the boys of a similar standing under the former master.

Hiccode.

There being no place in which to hold the school, it was broken up at the time of my visit. The boys had not assembled after the Easter holidays, the rest-house being unsafe. Mr. Anthonisz had made an attempt to collect money among the people for the erection of a small bungalow, but with very little success. He had been in bad health for some time, and had not visited his station since the Easter vacation.

Bentotte.

On the list 55.—Average attendance, ; present 43.

Class I. 8; II. 2; III. 10; IV. 8; V. 7; VI. 20.

Of Class I., five boys had not returned from their village since the Easter holidays, being deterred by the prevalence of dysentery in the village.

Classes I. and II. were examined together in the different subjects, and the result was upon the whole satisfactory. It was evident from the master's manner, when directed to examine the boys, that he had paid a good deal of attention to the subject, and presented to the minds of the boys a considerable amount of information; but he was not by any means sufficiently careful in ascertaining that they had taken it in: he rested satisfied with explaining a difficult word or passage, without examining by further questions whether his explanation had been understood. In Scripture, English history, English

CEYLON.

reading, and arithmetic these two classes acquitted themselves very creditably. I regretted, however, to find that an equal amount of attention had not been paid to the remaining classes, which were deficient in almost every branch, being left, I fear, too much to the assistant. I directed the master's attention to these defects, and hope to find an improved state of affairs at my next visit. I must however remark, that a mixed school scarcely appears necessary at this station. There is a vernacular one connected with the Church Missionary Society, very well attended, which is, or could easily be made, quite equal to the wants of the people. If the mixed school were moved to Ballipitymodera, it would, I think, be attended with beneficial results.

SIR, Colombo, August 20th, 1855.

In enclosing my report of the schools in the Colombo district, I have much pleasure in being able to state that I have found them, upon the whole, much better than when I last visited them. There has been, I hope, a little more system observed in the method of imparting instruction, which has been, to a certain extent, accompanied with the results which might naturally be expected to arise. Having, in addition to the half-yearly examination, visited most of them once or twice on ordinary working days, I have had a very good opportunity of observing both their improvement and their defects. And although I have had reason to be pleased with the former, I am sorry to say that too many of the latter still remain. They are to be found chiefly in the reading lessons and arithmetic; and I should have been glad if the remarks I made on these subjects last year had been published in the Appendix to the Report. We might then, I think, have looked for a greater amount of improvement, as the attention of the masters would be directed to the points especially deserving attention, with somewhat more of authority than when merely spoken to on the occasion of my visit. Still better perhaps would it be if the passages I now refer to were embodied in the report itself, with a few remarks, indicative of the wish of the Commission that greater pains should be taken in the two branches of study above referred to. In arithmetic sufficient care is not taken in explaining the principles of the rules, and in ascertaining that the boys thoroughly understand them; and it appears to me that the boys are allowed to assist each other a great deal, for I almost invariably find them attempting to do so when I examine them, and when it is prevented not more than one half of the number succeed in working the examples correctly. Too much stress cannot be laid upon this point, for in almost all our schools arithmetic must occupy the position which geometry and logic occupy in higher schools;—it must be the instrument by which they are taught to think with accuracy; and unless it is carefully attended to it is plain that a very important part of their education is neglected. Another point in reference to this branch of study, (and indeed in reference to all their studies) to which sufficient attention is not paid is the frequent revision of the portions previously taught. Many of the boys in this country evince great facility in acquiring knowledge, but the misfortune is that they seldom retain it, so that boys who have advanced as far as fractions without revision will often fail in some of the earlier rules, for example, in compound division. Hence arises the desirableness of frequent revision. I do not myself think that a day in each week devoted to the revision of the studies of the previous week, and a week in each month for the revision of the studies of the previous three weeks, would be at all unprofitably spent. A much less amount of work apparently would be done, but inasmuch as it would be done more effectively more real good would be effected. The great deficiency with respect to the reading lessons is the want of explanation and dissection, accompanied by animated questioning, with the view of ascertaining whether the boys really do understand what they read. So far as I can judge from my examinations, and the few opportunities I have of hearing the masters conduct a class, they are for the most part satisfied with the following process:—A whole lesson, of perhaps two or three pages, is read, without any interruption but what may arise from the correction of verbal mistakes, and but little pains being taken to see that the attention of the whole class is directed to the passage which is being read; the books are then closed, some of the more difficult words are spelt, a few questions are put, which generally contain the answer in themselves, a slight explanation of one or two of the more difficult sentences is given, and the class is dismissed. It is plain that but little benefit has accrued to any one from such an exercise as that; and any suggestions that I may offer, though readily listened to at the time, are, I fear, very soon forgotten. That a few sentences at a time are sufficient,—that a minute examination of almost every distinct clause, with the books open, is necessary,—that explanations, of the simplest kind must be first given to the boys, and afterwards elicited from them, and that then a few questions on the general subject, with the books shut, may follow, if the time permits,—are points to which I cannot prevail upon the masters to direct their attention. It is the plan I always adopt in examining their classes, in the hope that an example of what I consider the best mode of conducting a reading lesson may produce a more lasting impression than a mere statement would; but in the majority of cases, I am sorry to say, whatever change may be made for a time, the old system is soon resumed, and at the next examination a similar result is seen. A desire to get through a considerable amount of work combines with the want of previous training to prevent them from changing the plans to which they have so long been accustomed. I wish I could add that in no case is the blame to be attributed to an unwillingness to undergo the additional

exertion required, or to the absence of a real interest in the work in which they are engaged.

But in justice to many of our efficient masters I am bound to add, that the instruments with which they are required to work are such that it is scarcely fair to expect more satisfactory results. The set of reading books at present in use is both defective and unsuitable to the country. There is an interval between the second and third books so great that it is simply absurd to take a boy from one to the other, while the third book itself is of such a nature that it is difficult to select even a few lessons suitable for the boys of the age and standing for which it is intended; in fact, the fourth book is in reality easier than the third. I confess I am quite at a loss to imagine how any educational society in England could give their sanction to so ill-assorted a collection of books. The reading books of the Irish Board and Christian Knowledge Society are much better adapted to our schools, and if both were used would afford both a nice gradation and a sufficient variety; in addition to which they have the advantage of being cheaper than the Daily Lesson Books, which are not worth the prices set upon them. While on this subject, I would beg to direct the attention of the commission to a grammar and composition book, by Allen and Cornwall, which I consider it very desirable to introduce into our schools. The grammar for beginners is as perfect a book of its kind as I have ever met with, and the composition book gives a progression of exercises on a good system, far more likely to assist the boys in writing correct English than the plan of correcting false syntax, and attempting set themes without any material to work upon, which appears to be all that the masters have any idea of doing at present. These books may be purchased at present at the "Examiner" office.

Of the vernacular schools in this district I am glad to be able to say, that I think they are producing beneficial results. Out of the town they are not always so well attended as one could wish, but generally speaking the work is well done. But it is saddening to think that while the boys in the different villages are being educated, nothing is done for the girls. The want of schoolmistresses is one which does not appear very likely to be supplied for some time to come. It has occurred to me, therefore, that the experiment might be tried of allowing the vernacular masters to teach girls, either admitting them to the lessons at the same time with the boys, or devoting four hours in the morning to boys, and two in the afternoon to girls. It would not be desirable, perhaps, to require it in all the schools at first; but the experiment might be tried where we have good masters, and the population is such as to render it probable that a sufficient number of girls would attend, as, for instance, at Peyliyagodde and Matacooly. In this way I think something might be done to correct the anomalous state of things which the education of the males only is calculated to produce.

To meet the gradual falling off in the attendance at our country schools, I have long felt that some change in our plans is necessary, and for many months past I have been considering the desirableness of making our schools much more temporary in their continuance in the same locality than they are at present. There can be but little doubt that when a master is established in a village, as it were for a permanence, he is apt to lose somewhat of the interest he may at first have taken in collecting boys about him; and he views the reduction in his numbers with but little concern, his salary being in no way dependent upon the number of his pupils. I have thought, therefore, that it would be desirable to let the master and the villagers understand that the former is sent for a limited period only, say two years; and that it is hoped that by that time some of his pupils will have acquired a sufficient amount of instruction to enable them to conduct the school, towards which, however, the government would still continue a small grant; or, if it was found that the school continued to be well attended, the master might be retained in the village, a fee being required from the pupils. In this way I thought that by a careful selection of localities a whole corle might in a few years be gone through by an efficient master, who might eventually be employed as an inspector of the different schools he had been instrumental in establishing. I was not at all aware that this principle had been suggested or acted upon by any one else, until a short time ago, when on reading an extract from a journal of one of the oldest and most experienced missionaries, I was glad to find him recommending the adoption of a similar plan, and I have since learnt that in the Kandyan mission it has been carried out. I annex the extract to which I refer, and I would beg the serious consideration of the Commission to the subject.

Extract from the Journal of the Rev. W. OAKLEY.

"The present state of affairs raises a very important question, as to the course which it may be our duty to pursue with reference to the opening and carrying on of schools in this part of the mission.

"Several schools have been opened by us in Kandyan villages, and have gone on pretty well for two or three years. The attendance has been regular, and the improvement satisfactory, but just at the time when the older boys were beginning to understand our instructions and our addresses, they have left us. This has so frequently occurred that our educational department at this station (Kandy) has been very discouraging. Scarcely any of the boys who have been educated in our schools have afterwards joined themselves to our congregations.

CEYLON.

"The work of education in day schools at this station must, I think, be viewed as a failure, so far as regards the training up of young persons in sound Christian principles; at least we see not that such has been the result. Several hundred young persons have in our schools obtained a correct knowledge of the way of salvation, and a considerable acquaintance with religious truth; but the number of those who have afterwards manifested a sincere regard for these things, and have lived like true Christians, has been very small.

"As our object in establishing schools among the heathen is not merely to give them what is usually termed a 'secular education,' but especially to communicate to them a knowledge of Divine truth,—to make them thoroughly acquainted with the Gospel of Jesus Christ,—I feel much disposed to recommend for adoption, at least for a time, and as an experiment, the following plan. It may prevent much of that disappointment and discouragement which we now so often meet with, and may perhaps be viewed as an itinerating school mission, and as such deserve a fair trial.

"The plan which I would suggest is the following:—Wherever the inhabitants of a large Kandyan village or a cluster of villages are desirous of having a school established among them, and are willing to provide (as at present) a schoolroom, free of expense to the society, a school should be opened, (if the funds of the society will admit,) with the distinct announcement that it will be continued only for the space of two years; that during that time the education, both in the English and Singhalese languages, will be gratis; but that the special object aimed at will be to communicate to the scholars, and to their parents, so far as they may be willing to attend, a correct knowledge of the Christian religion. And it should be distinctly announced, at the commencement, that the master will be withdrawn unless the scholars attend pretty regularly.

"If, as in our former and present schools, the scholars are induced to attend regularly for about two years, many of them may obtain a considerable acquaintance with the chief truths of the Gospel, and may, by the blessing of God, not only themselves derive benefit from that knowledge, but be made the means of communicating it to their parents and others. At the expiration of the two years (unless some special reasons render a different course desirable) the school, or rather the master, would be removed to another village, some few miles distant.

"In this way the knowledge of the Christian religion would be communicated to a much larger number of young persons than can possibly be done under the present system, and without any additional expense to the society; for the chief advantage of the plan now proposed would be, that it would afford the means of communicating a knowledge of the Christian religion to the young persons, and perhaps also to their parents, in many districts, instead of being limited, as at present, to only a very few districts. Instead of having a school (as at present) for twenty years in the same village, ten schools might be established in as many several districts, and at the same expense. The children too, who have received a certain amount of instruction, might be ready to make a sacrifice to obtain a better education, and this might eventually lead to the establishment of schools in which the children would be willing to pay for their education.

"If the above plan, or a plan somewhat similar, should be attempted, the schoolmaster might follow the itinerant missionary throughout the Kandyan country, and thus the Gospel might be proclaimed to both old and young; the adults forming the congregaitons of the Christian missionary; the children and young persons forming the congregations of the Christian schoolmaster."

I need scarcely add, that if such a plan is decided upon, no efforts shall be wanting on my part to secure, if possible, a successful result.

I have the honour to be,
Sir,
Your most obedient servant,
J. Brooke H. Bailey,
Inspector of Schools.

J. Fraser, Esq., Sec. Sch. Commission.

DISTRICT OF COLOMBO.—ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS.

St. Thomas's School.

There has been a considerable number of boys in attendance at this school during the last half year, the average having scarcely ever been below 60; but they are chiefly in the lower classes, and very young. Class I. only contains 8 boys, Class II. 29, and Class III. 43. The necessary consequence of this is a lower standard of advancement upon the whole than I have before met with in this school. Domestic trials of a very peculiar nature, followed by frequent attacks of indisposition, have withdrawn the head master very much from his duties, or at least prevented him from discharging them with his usual zeal and ability; and the younger boys have thus been left too much under the care of the second assistant, whose capabilities are very moderate indeed.

In Classes I. and II. the answering in a considerable portion of Watts's Scripture History, though not quite so ready as I could have wished, was upon the whole satisfactory; a little more explanation and less repetition by mere rote is desirable in Class II. I was disappointed with the result in arithmetic in both these classes. The upper boys profess to have gone nearly through the book, but were very deficient in the most

important rules; while the working of examples in proportion in Class II. showed that the boys did not understand the principles of the operations. The difficulty I have so often adverted to in reports of this school, of inducing boys to buy the reading books, operates most prejudicially on their progress in English; only two or three in Class I. read with intelligence, and the answering, as might be expected, from the want of books, was anything but satisfactory. I spoke very strongly to some boys, who I felt persuaded had no excuse but heedlessness, and directed Mr. Blake not to allow four of them to attend school again until they had purchased reading books. A decided failure in their English exercises was a result which naturally followed from the little interest taken in this branch of their studies, as shown by the circumstance above alluded to. In geography I was glad to find a considerable improvement; more attention had evidently been paid to the maps, and the particulars in the text book were more correctly remembered. Their chronology had evidently been learnt too much by rote to admit of their answering questions selected at random from different parts of the book.

In Class II. the reading of a few in Book III. was pretty fair; of the rest, several read without intelligence, and some were scarcely able to pronounce the words. The answering was very far from good; there was an evident want of the dissection of sentences, and explanation of their meaning. In geography the answering on the maps of the world and Europe was very general and good; far better than that of Class I. The writing from dictation was tolerably correct, and their penmanship very creditable.

Class III. is broken up into several divisions, in various stages of progress; but for the reasons above mentioned their advancement had not been so satisfactory as it might have been.

It is perhaps premature, in view of the proposals already sanctioned by the Commission for the reduction of the number of schools in Colombo, to make any suggestion; but it appears to me that the fusion of this and the Pettah School, locating them in the building formerly used for the Central School (the lease of which, I believe, has not nearly expired), would be attended with considerable advantage. With St. Thomas's Collegiate School so near, the upper classes in this school are not likely in future to be very large; whereas in the Pettah School there is scarcely a sufficient number of younger boys to engage the whole attention of an assistant. Difficulties may possibly arise in the adjustment of the position of the head master; but an arrangement might perhaps be made similar to the one adopted when Dr. Kessen was appointed joint head master with myself in the Academy. I cannot, however, conceal from the Commission, that Mr. Blake's capabilities of successfully conducting a large school are, from the state of his health, very materially diminished; and I have no doubt that if employment of a less laborious nature could be provided for him he would gladly accept it.

Colombo Boys' School.

The number on the list in this school is 60, and generally speaking they are all in attendance. In Class I. there are 9 boys, in Class II. 22, and in Class III. 29. Classes I. and II. are for the most part taught together by the head master; Class III. being left to the assistant.

Classes I. and II. In Watts's Scripture History, embracing the history of the Israelites in the wilderness and the life of John the Baptist, the answering was very general, and extremely correct, affording a pleasing proof of the care with which the minute particulars of the different events had been entered into. In arithmetic, the examples, extending from simple multiplication to practice, were correctly worked by the majority of the boys in each division, and the answers to my questions on the principles of the operations were such as to show that they had been carefully explained. The reading of Class I. in Book IV. was very pleasing, being correct and intelligent, and their answering, both on the construction of the sentences and the previous portions of the history, extremely satisfactory. The writing from dictation was unusually correct; but the attempts at composition were rather a failure. The answering in geography, the subject being England and Wales, was not so satisfactory as I could have wished in Class I.; but Class II. answered very creditably indeed on the map of Europe. In the reading and answering of Class II. in Book III. there was a marked improvement; their writing from dictation was tolerably correct, but their answering in grammar was not very good.

Of Class III. eight or ten boys were able to read Book II. with tolerable fluency; but the rest hesitated considerably, and appeared to have but little notion of the meaning of what they read. They worked examples in addition, subtraction, and multiplication, in three equal divisions, the majority being correct.

I was very much pleased with the decided improvement in this school; the average attendance is greater in proportion to the number on the list than in any other school in Colombo; and great pains have evidently been taken by Mr. Spaar in endeavouring to make his pupils understand the meaning of what they read and learn.

Grand Pass School.

On the list, 83. Average attendance, 70. Class I. 16; II. 26; III. 14; IV. 27.

Class I. The examination in Scripture embraced the history of the kings of Judah, and that of Daniel, Jonah, and Esther, together with the Acts of the Apostles; the

CEYLON.

answering was satisfactory upon the whole, though somewhat defective in the first-mentioned portion. In arithmetic, seven boys attempted examples in practice, three in reduction, and three in the compound rules; but the majority in each division failed to work them correctly, even after two or three trials. They read from Book IV. with great fluency and intelligence; and, with the exception of one or two grown-up Singhalese boys, who appeared remarkably dull of comprehension, they answered very satisfactorily. They wrote correctly from dictation, and the exercises in grammar were very creditable.

In geography the answering both from the text book and on the maps was very satisfactory; great pains are evidently taken with this branch, and much additional information supplied by the master, which the boys are required to enter in note books. They had gone over a few paragraphs explanatory of matter and motion, but they scarcely seemed to have laid hold of any of them with anything like a correct grasp.

In Class II. the reading from Book III. was very fair, and the answering, upon the whole, as good as, from the nature of the book, could be expected; the spelling and answering on the elements of grammar were tolerably correct. In arithmetic, nine boys worked examples in compound addition correctly, and also in simple multiplication, but they failed completely in simple division; the whole of the second division worked examples in simple addition without a mistake. Their knowledge of the principal features of the map of Europe was very creditable.

Class III. had been instructed orally in the life of John the Baptist, and some of the principal events of our Saviour's history; but their knowledge of English is so slight that I failed to elicit any satisfactory replies. They read Book II., but without much intelligence, and worked examples in simple addition and subtraction pretty correctly.

The boys of Class IV. read from different portions of Books I. and II., and some of them appeared to be progressing very nicely.

Upon the whole, I was not so well satisfied with this school as usual; but many of the boys in the upper classes, having been but lately promoted, were naturally not quite au fait in some of the lessons that had been learnt in the early part of the half year.

Slave Island School.

On the list, 46. Average attendance, 41. Class I. 13; II. 15; III. 18.

More than one third of the boys who were at school in January had left during the half year, some having enlisted, and others being employed in various ways.

Classes I. and II. were examined in Watts's chapter on prophecies and the Gospel history, and the answering was much more satisfactory than I have known it for some time. The reading of Class I. in Book IV. was correct and intelligent, and the answering on several portions of English history very satisfactory. Great improvement was perceptible also in their answering in geography, to which considerable attention had evidently been paid. Examples in proportion and interest were worked correctly by more than half the class, and the exercises in English grammar were tolerably satisfactory.

In Class II. examples in the compound rules were worked correctly by all the boys. They read and answered very fairly in Book III., and wrote from dictation with tolerable correctness.

The boys of Class III. receive oral instruction in Scripture; but they scarcely know sufficient English to enable them to answer questions put by a stranger. They read pretty well in Book II., and worked examples in simple addition correctly.

I was pleased to find that there was so much improvement perceptible in this school, and I venture to hope that it will continue. Mr. Perera can do his work well, if he pleases; and considering that he is now drawing the maximum salary allowed to masters of elementary schools, with less than half the number of scholars for whom it is supposed to be given, it would appear desirable to adopt some plan by which the number of his scholars may be increased.

MIXED SCHOOLS.

Marandahn.

On list, 61. Average attendance, 50. Class I. 16; II. 21; III. 24.

The boys of Class I. passed a very creditable examination on the chapters in Watts relating to holy persons, places, and things, and the miracles and example of Christ. Three worked examples in long division, three in compound multiplication, and eight in compound division, with a quickness and accuracy which I have not before met with in this school. A portion of them read a passage from Book IV. with tolerable fluency and intelligence, and answered my questions satisfactorily; the rest read from Book III., and I was very much pleased with the decided improvement both in their manner of reading and in the facility and correctness with which they answered my questions. Their acquaintance with the map of Europe was very satisfactory; all except two answered quite correctly.

Instruction on several important Scriptural events had been imparted to Class II. orally, and with satisfactory results. Examples in the simple rules were worked correctly by different divisions; and the reading in different parts of Book II. was as good as could well be expected from such young children.

The boys of Class III., though mere beginners, were evidently receiving a due share of attention, and making satisfactory progress.

The improvement in this school is very marked, and it gives me great pleasure to be able to report so favourably of it.

Colpetty.

On list, 45. Average attendance, 39. Class I. 9; II. 13; III. 14; IV. 9.

Class I. was examined in the history of the kings of Judah. Having only gone over it once, without committing it to memory, their answering was not very satisfactory. Their reading from Book IV. was correct and intelligent, and their answering satisfactory. Examples in compound proportion were worked correctly by six boys, and by two boys in compound multiplication. The answering on the map of the world was very creditable.

The boys of Class II. read very fairly indeed, and translated single words correctly. Seven of them worked examples in simple division correctly. The writing of these two classes is evidently very carefully attended to.

In Classes III. and IV. the boys are a good deal subdivided, and were all making very satisfactory progress.

I always find Mr. Perera's work carefully attended to, and he is one of the few masters who take pains to carry on their own improvement.

Wellicadde and Hulfsdorph Gaols.

The instruction is now confined chiefly to Scriptural knowledge, Sunday being the only day allowed for school; and on several different occasions when I have visited the gaols on that day I have been very much pleased to find so many of the prisoners taking a great interest in their studies. Several of them can read and write very well indeed, and have acquired a very considerable knowledge of Scripture truths. They seem, many of them at least, to take every opportunity of reading and working arithmetic during the week; and they are very anxious to revert to the former plan of having an hour's instruction every day. How far this may be practicable I cannot of course judge; but it seems to be a very desirable arrangement, and that for reasons too obvious to require to be stated.

VERNACULAR SCHOOLS.

Dehiwelle.

The work of this school has been considerably interrupted during the last three months, by the breaking down of the old building, and the erection of a larger one in its place. There is still the same want of punctuality in the attendance of the boys that I have remarked on in former reports. The school professes to open at twelve o'clock, to suit the convenience of the boys, who are engaged in fishing during the early part of the day; but instead of coming at twelve the boys of the different classes come dropping in at different intervals between twelve and three; and I very much suspect that it frequently happens that little, if any, work is done before the latter hour, the excuse being, that very few boys are present in each class. The masters are brothers, and not likely to improve each other. I have tried my utmost to correct the want of system so evident in this school, but without success; and I think it highly desirable, for the benefit of this populous village, that some more energetic master should be placed at the head of this school as soon as practicable. The master of the Katane School is one of the best we have, and his abilities are at present comparatively wasted in the small school to which his attention is confined. The removal of the Dehiwelle master from his present locality is desirable also on the ground of the time which he devotes to his medical practice, which I suspect is too lucrative to be readily given up.

Watelle.

I was sorry to find, on visiting this school, that the number, which was never very great, had decreased, there being 24 names on the list, but not a greater average attendance than 12 or 13. I do not attribute this decrease to any want of attention on the part of the master, for the answers to my inquiries from several persons as to the regularity of his attendance were quite satisfactory; and I have always found his work quite as well done as in the other schools, and himself very careful in carrying out any instructions I have from time to time given him, with a view of improving his mode of instruction. I am rather inclined to think that the village itself is scarcely large enough to supply more children; and most of the men being engaged in cart-driving on the Kandy road, the children are frequently required to help the mothers at home, or as soon as they are old enough join their fathers in their occupation. Hence, on one occasion, when I visited the school, the whole of the second class was absent, and on another, only two boys, being one third of the number, were present in the first. These circumstances of course operate very prejudicially upon the school. I was glad to find, however, that the work that had been got through during the half year was not below the average in quantity, and had been very carefully attended to. In Scripture history, geography, history of Ceylon, and arithmetic, the upper boys answered very satisfactorily indeed;

CEYLON.

and the lower boys were making creditable progress in reading and arithmetic. The most discouraging feature is the early removal of the children from the school, so that one scarcely ever sees anything like a progressive advance. The same portions of different subjects are presented for examination year after year, the only difference being in the persons of the boys. It is not impossible that a more suitable locality might be selected along that road, for which purpose I would suggest a communication with Mr. Valentine De Sarum, the modliar of the corle.

Matacooly.

There has been a considerable decrease in the attendance at this school during the last six months, the children having been more engaged than usual in fishing; nor has the proportion between the number on the list and the number in attendance been so good as in former years; the reason assigned for which is, a considerable amount of sickness in the neighbourhood. But I have every reason to be as much satisfied as usual with the progress which the boys have made. The master is a very pains-taking teacher, and does more, I think, towards the general improvement of his boys, than any one we have. He is constantly borrowing books likely to be useful to himself; and by the help of pictures, maps, large tables, and any other means that suggests itself to him, he endeavours to excite and keep up among his boys an interest in their several lessons. His elder boys are making very satisfactory progress in Scripture history, and their knowledge of the history and geography of their own country is extremely creditable. The correctness with which they work their arithmetic is very pleasing; indeed their whole appearance and deportment give one the idea of boys who are happy in their work, and anything but deficient in intelligence. The reading and answering of the next two classes, both in Scripture and their reading books, were highly satisfactory; and I am still able to point to the lowest class in this school as the one in which the children are taught to read on the most intelligent plan, and surmount the difficulties of the alphabet more quickly than in any other of our vernacular schools.

Milagraya.

In the number attending this school I am happy to be able to report a slight increase. There are 56 on the list, with an average attendance of 40. The boys are more subdivided into classes than there is any occasion for; and I directed the master to unite them, for there is in reality very little difference between the boys, except in arithmetic, for which there is no necessity whatever to subdivide them. The elder boys, to the number of a dozen, are well acquainted with the New Testament history, and with that of the Old Testament, as far as Judges. They have gone through the History of Ceylon, and are now revising it. Their recollection of its most prominent points is very creditable, nor is their knowledge of the geography of the island less satisfactory. A few can work examples in simple and compound proportion, and the rest are in the compound rules. The boys in the middle classes are able to read Balaprabodhana with fluency and intelligence, and answered very satisfactorily; most of them can work examples in the simple rules, and all write very nicely indeed. The lower boys are in different parts of the First Reading Book, some having advanced very little beyond the alphabet. The progress of all is most satisfactory.

In connection with this school, I had again the pleasure of visiting the industrial school; but as Mr. Thurstan is about to publish a report of its progress I will only state that it is advancing steadily in every branch, and promises to be a most useful institution, one of the beneficial results, by no means the least important, being the establishment of similar institutions in Kandy and Newera Ellia, the latter of which is conducted by a young man brought up in the Colpetty School.

Kohilawatte.

The number in attendance at this school continues very steady, but the boys at present there are young, and have not advanced so far as some of their predecessors. They are, however, making satisfactory progress, and bid fair to acquire a very fair amount of instruction. Instead of the majority of the boys being in the lowest class, as is the case in most of the schools, the greatest number are in the two first classes. The New Testament history is taught from the Harmony of the Gospels, and the elder boys have gone over a considerable portion of it, of which they retain a very fair recollection. They have also read several chapters of the History of Ceylon, in which they evidently take considerable interest; but in arithmetic they are not so far advanced as their progress in other studies led me to expect, none having gone beyond simple multiplication.

The boys of Class II. read Balaprabodhana II. with fluency and intelligence, and work examples in simple addition. Those of Class III. are in different parts of the spelling book, and those of Class IV. are still in the alphabet.

I have much pleasure in being able to bear testimony to the continued attention of the master of this school. He takes great pains to improve himself, and gladly adopts suggestions made for the improvement of his mode of teaching, and the beneficial results are seen in the quickness and intelligence no less than in the steady progress of his boys.

ATIDIYA.

The numbers in attendance at this school continues much the same as in former years. On the list there are 33, and the average attendance is from 20 to 24. The school appears to be very liable to be interrupted by circumstances occurring in the village; for I scarcely remember having ever visited it without finding a paucity of numbers, arising from a marriage or funeral, or some other excitement in the village. In this school also the majority of the boys are in the upper classes, and are making very satisfactory progress. Their acquaintance with the Gospel history is very correct; they read the History of Ceylon with intelligence and fluency; they work examples in arithmetic, varying from simple to compound subtraction; and are tolerably well acquainted with the Old Testament history, down to the giving of the law. The lower boys are not progressing so satisfactorily as I would wish. I warned the master against neglecting them, as being fewer in number than the two upper classes, and told him I should expect to find a considerable improvement when I next visited his school. I have every reason to believe the master to be regular and attentive in the discharge of his duties, but naturally tempted to devote himself to the more advanced boys, some of whom are exceedingly intelligent, to the neglect of those, fewer in number and less advanced, who have an equal right to his attention.

PALIYAGODDE.

I find some difficulty in persuading myself that the change in the locality of this school was an advantageous one; at least in respect of numbers the present school has all along been inferior to the former one. It is true, however, that a considerable degree of interest is felt by the inhabitants of this part in the education of their children; a pleasing proof of which is found in the regular attendance of the children, and the erection of a very substantial school bungalow. The majority of the children are young, but sprightly and intelligent; and they are making very satisfactory progress in the usual subjects studied in the vernacular schools.

It is quite pleasing to see the interest many of them take in the history of their own country. None of our reading books are so much liked as the History of Ceylon; and I have often felt extremely glad that the Commission were so fortunate as to meet with a book so evidently calculated to attract even the youngest of the children, who before they can read it themselves listen with considerable attention when it is read by their seniors. The assistant master has been prevented from attending to his duties for several weeks by an attack of ophthalmia. I have made it my business to ascertain by personal observation the state of his health, and am very sorry to have to report that there appears every probability of his being laid aside for a considerable time longer.

CALANY.

This is, I think, one of the most stationary of our schools, both in respect of numbers and of progress. The master, though diligent and regular in the discharge of his duties, so far as I can judge from observation and inquiry, is not by any means one of our brightest specimens. He seems to have considerable difficulty in keeping up any improvement in his system of teaching; but I generally find that little plans that I have suggested and explained to him, though adopted for a time, have ere long been relinquished, and he has fallen back into his own original method. He labours under a considerable disadvantage in the irregularity of the attendance, which is caused chiefly by the frequent occurrence of festivals, of greater or less importance, in the neighbouring Roman Catholic chapels. But yet the progress made by his boys, though slow, is tolerably steady. Some of them are extremely quick in working arithmetic; in others I observed a greater degree of aptness in geography than is generally found in our schools; and in all the subjects the general answering was very fair. The only point is, that the boys have not advanced so far in the different subjects, particularly in Scripture, as boys of the same standing in other schools. This arises partly from habit, which some of our masters have, of commencing the Testament anew at the beginning of each year, if not of each half year. I have prevented this in some measure, by setting out a certain portion of work to be done in each subject during the half year; but this is one of the schools in which the master almost invariably finds some excuse for deviating from the plan I had sketched out. The excuse is very seldom a really good one; a very common one, for instance, is, that two or three boys had come newly into the class, and that for their sakes it was necessary to begin again; but I hope to be able in time to bring the masters into more systematic methods, and so secure the progressive advancement of the schools.

WELLEWATTE.—FEMALE.

I feel assured that when I report that at four different visits during the space of two months I have never found more than six or eight children present, only two of whom could read at all, the rest being so young as to give one the idea that they were only sent to school to be kept quiet, I shall have said enough to justify me in again recommending the discontinuance of this school. I cannot perceive that it is of the slightest benefit to to any one, except the fortunate recipient of the salary, whom I have never found employed

CEYLON.

in teaching, but always busily engaged in sewing something for herself, any who were equal to it being occupied in the same way, and the rest sitting idly by, listening to the friendly conversation carried on between the mistress and the one or two elder girls who happened to be present, and who probably were her own relations. At my two last visits the mistress was absent, having been lately confined, but her locum tenens did not appear to be much, if at all, superior to herself.

FEMALE SCHOOLS.

Female Seminary.

It is so difficult to induce the upper girls in our female schools to answer audibly, that it is by no means an easy matter to form a correct opinion as to the real state of the school, for even when they are questioned by their teacher, the presence of a comparative stranger produces a degree of shyness which almost prevents him from being able to judge of the amount of knowledge possessed by the girls. I think, however, that I may venture to assert that I was not altogether unsuccessful in eliciting answers which gave me a tolerably correct idea of the progress that had been made, which was very satisfactory. The first 25 girls have been for some time under Mrs. Elliott's immediate superintendence, and have derived considerable advantage from it. Their knowledge of English has improved very much; their reading was fluent and intelligent, and the answering on a considerable portion of English history by the upper half of the class, and on a chapter in natural history by the rest, was extremely creditable. In geography, too, I could perceive a considerable improvement; there was a greater degree of quickness in pointing out places on the map, and the answering on the text book was more general than I have hitherto found it. But there did not appear to have been a fair proportion of Scriptural instruction imparted, and in arithmetic there was scarcely any improvement perceptible.

I regret not to be able to report very favourably of the progress made by the second class, under Mrs. Lindsay's care; but it is accounted for in a great measure by her not infrequent absences caused by ill-health, and the difficulty, where there are no regular monitors, of providing a suitable substitute. I suppose it is probable that this cause will continue to operate with at least equal if not increased disadvantage; and it seems therefore desirable to consider what remedy can be applied.

The lowest class, consisting of 23 children, is very much subdivided, and occupies the whole attention of the second assistant, with whose conduct in the discharge of her duties Mrs. Elliott expressed herself as being satisfied. The principal events of the Bible history are taught orally, and several of them can answer very satisfactorily. The upper half of the class is reading Book II., and the rest are in different stages of progress in Book I.

I fear the school will suffer considerably from the continued absence of any one at its head, and that, under whomsoever it may be placed, it will be a long time before it recovers itself. This circumstance is very much to be regretted, particularly as the elder girls will be the chief sufferers, and that at a time when continued attention, both on the teacher's part and their own, is especially needed.

Colombo Girls' School.

During the last half year the girls of this school have had the gratification of hailing the return of their former esteemed teacher, Mrs. Palm,—not however, it is painful to add, with that degree of restoration to health which it was hoped a sojourn in a colder climate would effect. It is gratifying, however, to know that she has been able to enter upon her duties with her usual zeal, and with all the advantages which a visit to the best schools in England of a similar character is calculated to produce. Nor was Mrs. Palm unmindful of her youthful charge while absent from home, as the addition of a useful library and other appliances for smoothing the difficulties she had previously had to encounter abundantly testify. There has been an increase in the numbers during the last three months, and I sincerely hope that it will be long before Mrs. Palm again finds her duties too fatiguing for her health; for I have always felt the great advantage the girls of this school enjoy in two respects; first, they are all brought to a considerable extent under Mrs. Palm's immediate instruction and influence; and, secondly, that the moral influences brought to bear upon their tender minds are such as are not to be met with in any other of our schools. It has always appeared to me that the formation of the children's characters on sound religious principles has been Mrs. Palm's chief aim, while their intellectual advancement has not by any means been neglected. Owing to the short period that has elapsed since Mrs. Palm's return, I have not held any regular examination of the school; but I hope to do so, if all be well, before the close of the year.

Colpetty.

Of the 30 girls on the list in this school, only three are in the First Class, 11 being in Class II., and 16 in Class III. The upper girls have made considerable progress in English, and can now read with fluency and intelligence any passage of not more than ordinary difficulty. They work examples in simple division correctly and quickly; and

their knowledge of the New Testament history is very creditable; in geography too, their answering on the map of the world was very satisfactory. The girls of Class II. read "Peep of Day," in Singhalese, very well indeed, and their quickness in answering was most pleasing; they were tolerably correct in working examples in subtraction. The children in Class III. are very young, and scarcely any of them are able to read words of more than two or three letters. The school has evidently not entirely lost the benefit it derived from the efforts of the ladies who kindly visited it last year; but it is a matter of regret that none have been found to fill their places.

Borella.

This school, I am happy to say, still continues to enjoy the benefit of frequent visits from ladies in the neighbourhood, and keeps up its improved position. The average number in attendance is upwards of 30, there being 42 on the list. The elder girls have a very fair knowledge of the Old Testament history, down to the death of Moses, and of the principal events recorded in the New Testament. They read Mr. Murdoch's Book IV. very nicely indeed, but there is evidently a defect in the ordinary mode of questioning them, which made it difficult to elicit anything like correct answers. Examples in all the simple rules were worked correctly and quickly. The same result, arising from the want of proper questioning, was found in Class II., the girls of which can read very fairly. The younger children were all making satisfactory progress in the earlier stages. I am glad to be able to report that the school is regularly visited and examined by the Rev. Superintendent, as well as by the ladies who kindly interest themselves in it, and upon the whole it may be regarded as in a very satisfactory condition.

CENTRAL PROVINCE.

Kandy Industrial School.

The beneficial results that attended Mr. Thurstan's exertions in the establishment of an industrial school at Colombo induced the colonial chaplain of Kandy to make a similar attempt in that town. His efforts were seconded by the Government agent and most of the other residents. Funds were collected, a part of Mr. Wise's residence, kindly given up by him for the purpose, was prepared for the reception of 24 youths; a piece of land in the immediate neighbourhood was granted by Government for industrial purposes, and in November 1854 the institution was opened under Mr. Wise's superintendence. Early in the present year application was made to the Commission for aid, and a salary of £5 per mensem for the master was granted. The difficulties naturally incident to the early stages of such an institution for some time retarded its progress; but these were at length overcome by the patience and perseverance of its promoters, and it may now be considered as established on a firm basis. At the time of my visit there were 14 boys in the school, but before I left the province the full number had been admitted, most of them young intelligent lads, from whose reception into such an institution at so early an age the most beneficial results may be anticipated.

The mornings and evenings are devoted to out-door employment; the forenoon to lessons; and the afternoon to industrial occupations, of which tailoring, shoemaking, and basket-making are those in which they are engaged.

Of those who were in the school at the time of my visit, five were in Class I., and passed a most satisfactory examination in Scripture history, reading, grammar, arithmetic, and geography. They were thoroughly acquainted with the history contained in the book of Genesis, and St. Matthew's Gospel. Their reading was intelligent, their answering very satisfactory, and their parsing more than usually correct. Two worked examples in compound division and reduction, and three in simple multiplication and division. Their answering from the text-book in geography was very creditable, but the want of a map was a considerable disadvantage to them.

The other boys had not advanced very far in their studies; but the different classes were making satisfactory progress.

All write on slates, and take their turn in the respective industrial departments.

CENTRAL PROVINCE.

Kandy Elementary School.

On examining this school I was glad to find a marked improvement, particularly in the mathematical department. The remarks I made last year had evidently been attended to, and the results were satisfactory, so far as they went; but there is still room for further attention in reference to the same points which were then animadverted upon.

There were 82 names on the list, the average attendance being 70. The division into classes was as follows: Class I. 19; II. 27; III. 20; IV. 16.

Class I. Of the boys in this class only four were in at the last examination; the remainder had been taken up from Class II., except those who had been newly admitted during the year.

Scripture History.—The examination in this subject embraced the portion included between the entrance of the Israelites into the land of Canaan and the death of Solomon

CEYLON.

The answering was very far from general; of the 16 boys who were present, only three answered more than half the questions, and only five more than a quarter of them. This is to be attributed very much to the continuance of a defect in teaching which I have frequently noticed; when a boy makes a mistake the next boy below him who is able corrects him and takes his place, but the boy who made the mistake is never required to repeat the correction, thereby of course losing the whole benefit of it, for in many instances it is very doubtful if he even heard what it was.

What, therefore, I endeavour to impress upon the masters is the absolute necessity of requiring every boy who makes a mistake to repeat the correction of it at least once, and, if necessary, more frequently even than that.

English Reading.—An upper division, consisting of five boys, had been reading a portion of the History of Rome; of these one had lately joined the class; two answered satisfactorily; the remaining two were all but silent. Their reading was fluent and intelligent.

A second division had read ten chapters of the ancient history contained in volume VI. of the Instructor. The answering was general and satisfactory; their reading tolerably correct and intelligent.

The examination in grammar was by no means satisfactory; several of them were unable to distinguish the different parts of speech, and very few of them had anything like correct notions of construction.

Arithmetic.—Two were working examples in simple interest, eight in proportion, and six in fractions; and on a reference to my notes I observe that the first division worked all their sums correctly, only two of the second division failed to do the same, and in the third all received the full number of marks.

Algebra.—In this branch too there was a decided improvement, there being scarcely any failures in the different divisions; the sums varying from simple division to simple equations.

Geography.—In this subject I was little disappointed; not, however, so much with any deficiency or incorrectness in the answering as with a want of spirit in the examination conducted by one of the masters, and which was accounted for by the fact of his being entirely dependent upon his text-book for the questions. And this gives me the opportunity of suggesting to all our masters the desirableness of themselves reading over beforehand the lessons of each day, so as to refresh their memories, and render them less dependent on their text-books than they must otherwise of necessity be. It enables them also to collect and note down illustrations from other books. There is, perhaps, no subject in which this is more necessary; and the additional interest imparted to the lesson, and the greater progress made by the boys, will be found more than an ample recompence for the additional trouble, without which, however, I feel assured that no lesson can be properly taught.

A portion of Chambers's Introduction to the Sciences had been read by this class, and the answering bore testimony to the care which had been taken in rendering it intelligible to them.

Considerable attention had been paid, in connexion with their reading lessons, to the derivation of words, and I was very much pleased with the amount of information that had been acquired on this subject.

Class II.—The examination in Scripture was not so satisfactory in this class as I could have wished. Texts were repeated with apparently but little appreciation of the truths they contained; and in the historical portions the answering was neither general nor correct.

In the upper division in arithmetic the examples were worked correctly by nearly all in the lower, one boy failed entirely, but the rest gained at least two-thirds of the marks assigned. In algebra the working was very correct and quick.

In geography nearly half the class missed more questions than they answered; but in the history of England the answering was more general and more correct than I remember to have known it at previous examinations.

Their reading was fluent and intelligent; but their answering not nearly so good as their reading had led me to expect. There is a great want of the dissection of sentences, in examining classes as to their meaning. The masters seem satisfied if their boys have a general idea of their purport; and even that is too often suggested by themselves, rather than elicited from the boys. They wrote to dictation with great correctness and facility.

Class III. The boys of this class, I suspect, are unfortunately situated, being apt to be somewhat overlooked by the masters, in their not unnatural anxiety to promote the advancement of the two upper and two lower classes. There was a marked deficiency in almost every subject, which was accounted for partly, though by no means entirely, by the fact of several of the boys having lately come up from a lower class. There is no doubt, however, that the number of boys in the school is too great for the limited staff of masters, and this class would naturally suffer the most. I trust the Commission will sanction such additional aid as will remedy this very undesirable state of affairs.

Classes IV. and V. The boys in these two classes were mere beginners, not having advanced beyond the second reading book and the simplest elements of arithmetic; but they were quick and intelligent lads, and appeared to be making satisfactory progress.

I was sorry to observe, that the floor in the room lately added to the school was in a very bad state of repair. The bricks used appear to have been of an inferior description;

and the consequences are such as might have been expected from the constant trampling of a hundred boys, and the moving of benches and desks. A concrete of some description appears to be the best material for this purpose.

Kandy Mixed School.

The number on the books in this school was 106, and the average attendance 93. The boys were divided into six classes, as follows:—

I. 23; II. 20; III. 19; IV. 16; V. 10; VI. 18.

Classes I. and II. were examined together in the history of Moses, and the answering from two-thirds of the boys was satisfactory. Some difficulty arose from their inability to express themselves in English, but great pains had evidently been taken with the subject.

In geography too the classes were joined, and were said to be prepared for an examination on Asia and Africa; but I was sorry to find that they knew scarcely anything either of the maps or of the subject-matter of the text book.

In arithmetic the examples varied from the simple rules to interest. In Class I. the majority worked all the sums, but the result in Class II. was exactly the opposite.

Class I. read an historical passage from Book IV., a few with fluency and intelligence, but the rest with frequent mistakes, and but little attention to the meaning of the sentence. Very few were able to answer at all satisfactorily.

Class II. read a passage from Book III., and the same remarks may be made as to the result. I was particularly dissatisfied with this portion of the examination, as exhibiting a great deficiency in the art of teaching.

Class III. and IV. were examined in the history of Joseph and the life of Christ, the questions being put in Singhalese. So long as these were confined to the words of the text book the answering was satisfactory, but any attempt to vary them, or to introduce collateral subjects, invariably proved a failure. The great defect, indeed, in the teachers of this school is their inability to go beyond the very words of their text books.

The result of the examination in arithmetic was not satisfactory. Half of the upper class worked examples in simple multiplication correctly; but in Class IV. only two worked examples in subtraction, and three in addition.

Class III. read different passages from Book IV. Some were scarcely able to pronounce any of their words, others read pretty fairly, and a few with fluency and correctness. The answering in Singhalese was very fair indeed, but the spelling was by no means correct.

Class IV. read passages from the earlier portions of Book II. with a very fair pronunciation, and a correct translation of single words.

Classes V. and VI. were examined in the early history of the book of Genesis, and the life of John the Baptist. The answering was remarkably good, scarcely a single question being missed by the boy to whom it was put.

Their reading in Singhalese was very good indeed, and pretty fair in English, so far as it went. They wrote neatly on slates, and answered questions in simple addition correctly.

One great obstacle to the progress of this school is the extremely confined space in which it is held. There is one room, part of which is occupied by a gallery which will only just hold the boys when standing up en masse; there is no room, therefore, for the formation of classes, except in a line; and the lessons of one master must be constantly interrupted by those of another in close proximity to him. The erection of another room similar to the one added some time ago for the elementary school is absolutely necessary. The appointment of a more energetic head master would also be of great service to the school, which evidently suffers considerably from the very quiet way in which the teaching is at present conducted. An exchange with some other master might possibly be effected without much difficulty.

Kandy Girls' School.

I was sorry to find this school in anything but a satisfactory state. The assistant teacher had been absent a good deal from ill-health during the year, and other causes had been in operation to interfere with its well-being. The number of girls on the book was 71, and the average attendance 60. I examined the different classes in the various subjects which they professed to have been studying; but in scarcely one of them was the result anything but most unsatisfactory. The answering in the different subjects was confined to very few. Scarcely any of the examples in arithmetic were worked correctly, and altogether there was every evidence of very great deficiency. This was admitted by the head teacher, who attributed it to the fact of her having been for some time without her assistant; but I cannot persuade myself that this is the only cause of so serious a failure. It is not impossible that Miss Houliston will apply for leave of absence; and if it is granted steps should at once be taken to promote the improvement of the school.

The alterations in the building suggested last year have been carried out, and the schoolroom is now the best we have in the whole island.

Bolappe.

On the list, 22. Average attendance, 16. Class I. 1; II. 1; III. 3; IV. 17.

The distribution of the boys, in their respective classes, will show at once that this school is in a very elementary condition. The two upper boys read and wrote very fairly

CEYLON.

indeed; and their answering showed that great pains had been taken to explain their reading lessons to them, In arithmetic, however, they had not advanced beyond numeration. The alphabet class was making very satisfactory progress, the method of teaching being much more systematical than is usual in such schools.

But the expenditure of £48 per annum for the education of 16 boys in a language which they will probably never use in after life seems to point to the establishment of vernacular schools as a better and less expensive medium of imparting instruction to the mass of the Kandyan population.

Matelle.

On the list, 31. Average attendance, 24. Class I. 2; II. 5; III. 10; IV. 24.

Classes I. and II. were examined together in the early part of the book of Genesis and of St. Matthew's Gospel, and answered extremely well. They worked examples in different rules in arithmetic from simple multiplication to interest. All worked correctly, and some very quickly indeed.

Class I. read a passage from Book IV. with ease and intelligence, and answered any questions upon it most satisfactorily.

Class II. read from Book III. Their pronunciation was remarkably correct, and their answering very creditable. Great pains had evidently been taken with them. Both classes wrote to dictation with tolerable correctness.

Class I. passed an extremely satisfactory examination on the map of Europe, and repeated several passages from Valpy's Poetical Chronology, showing by their answering that the principal circumstances connected with the events referred to had been carefully explained to them.

The boys in Class II. knew scarcely sufficient English to admit of their answering my questions in Scripture satisfactorily. I therefore directed the master to impart instruction in this branch in Singhalese. Their pronunciation in reading was very fair, and their answering much more satisfactory than on former occasions. Their spelling and translation of single words were very correct. Examples in three of the elementary rules of arithmetic were worked correctly. Their Singhalese reading was very good; but they had evidently not been accustomed to be questioned on the meaning of the lessons read; a point to which I directed the master's special attention. In Class IV. one boy, the son of a rateymahatmaya, read a passage from Book II. very nicely indeed, and spelled correctly; but his knowledge of the meaning even of single words was very imperfect. The rest were mere beginners.

On the whole I had great reason to be satisfied with the state of this school.

Akurambodde.

The school in this village had only been lately re-opened after a long interval; but few boys had been collected, and even their attendance was far from being regular. Those who were present seemed to be making satisfactory progress.

Gampola.

On the list, 28. Average attendance, 19. Class I. 8; II. 5; III. 7; IV. 8.

Class I. and II. were examined together in a portion of St. Luke's Gospel, the first four answering in English, and the rest in Singhalese. The majority of them appeared to have a very fair knowledge of the principal events recorded. Three boys worked examples in compound multiplication quite correctly; and of eight who attempted simple multiplication only one failed.

Class I. read a passage from Book III. with ease and intelligence, their pronunciation being remarkably correct, and their answering very satisfactory; they also passed a very creditable examination on the map of Asia.

There was a deficiency of books in Class II., and the natural consequence was an unsatisfactory examination as to reading; but the answering showed that pains had been taken to explain the passages read.

In Class III. several boys read passages containing words of two syllables, spelling the words correctly, and giving explanations of simple terms in Singhalese. Half of the class worked examples in addition and subtraction correctly.

Class IV. were mere beginners. Finding that the master had been engaged in drawing up petitions for several of the litigants in the police court, I forbad his doing so, as being a course of procedure quite incompatible with his position as the schoolmaster of the village. He is evidently dissatisfied with his position, and will probably take the first opportunity of engaging in some other employment.

Nawalpitiya.

On the list, 33. Average attendance, 23. Class I. 3; II. 8; III. 7; IV. 16.

Classes I. and II. were examined together in the earlier chapters of Genesis and St. Matthew's Gospel, and answered very correctly indeed. Four worked examples in compound multiplication, and seven in subtraction. The reading of Class I. in Book III. was intelligent, their answering satisfactory, and their spelling and translation correct. Class II. read and answered equally well in Book II.

Class III. read words of three and four letters, but not at all fluently; nor were they able to translate.

Class IV. read words of two or more letters.

The master had only been three months in charge of this school, but had evidently been diligent in the discharge of his duties.

Nuwara Eliya.

On list, 43. Average attendance, 30. Class I. 2; II. 9; III. 8; IV. 24.

Classes I. and II. were examined in the Pentateuch and the four Gospels; the answering from one of the boys was remarkably good, but the rest were comparatively silent, three of them having been but lately admitted into Class II. Their reading of a passage from Book III. was fluent and intelligent, and their answering very satisfactory, accompanied by correct translations of words and phrases. The spelling and parsing were both better than at the last examination. Two boys explained correctly the principles of simple proportion, and worked examples with great facility. Their answering in geography, on Europe and Asia, was very creditable. The writing to dictation was correct, and their Singhalese reading remarkably good.

In the Scriptural examination, the answering in Class III. and IV. was very good, so far as it went; but it was not nearly so general as it ought to have been. The reading and spelling of Class III. were very creditable, and their penmanship remarkably good. Elementary lessons in drawing were given to the upper boys, and some very successful attempts were exhibited. Great exertions had been made by the chaplain of the station to establish an industrial school, and with considerable success, so far as the preparation of means was concerned. A comparatively large sum of money had been collected; a grant of land procured from Government, an acre of which was in process of cultivation; a supply of seed-potato of a superior kind had been received, and materials for erecting a schoolhouse were being prepared. If untiring energy can secure success, there need be no fear of the failure of this experiment, attempted and to the present time carried out in the face of difficulties of no ordinary character. Mr. Mooyaart has had the assistance and sympathy of many friends; and if the results are not successful, it will not be owing to any want of zeal on his part, but simply to the force of circumstances over which no control can be exercised.

Badulla.

On the list, 30. Average attendance, 20. Class I. 4; II. 7; III. 5; IV. 14.

Class I. was examined in portions of the book of Joshua and the Acts of the Apostles. The answering was remarkably good,—such as I scarcely ever have the pleasure of meeting with.

Of two who attempted compound proportion, one worked quite correctly, but the other did not understand the principle of the rule; the others worked examples correctly in fractions. They read a passage from Book IV. with great fluency and intelligence, and their answering was most satisfactory. The examination on the text book of geography was extremely satisfactory, but they had no maps fit to use.

The reading, spelling, and translation of Class II. were correct, but they failed very much in answering questions on the passage read. This was owing chiefly to their defective knowledge of English.

Classes I. and II. read passages from Books I. and II. respectively, and were evidently making satisfactory progress. The penmanship was not so good as it usually is in schools of this kind.

Badulla Vernacular Schools.

Of these two schools I am sorry to be obliged to have to make the same unsatisfactory report as in former years. Beyond learning ola writings by heart, the Tamil boys are doing positively nothing. Even the quickest among them, the servants of some of the European residents, are unable to read at sight.

In the Singhalese school a few were able to read pretty well, but it was quite evident that they were never asked a single question; nor had they made any progress in arithmetic. If trained masters are sent into this district, one may hope for a better state of things; but with the present men it is quite out of the question.

Hadenia.

On list, 19. Average attendance, 12. Class I. 8; II. 6; III. 5.

Class I. was examined in the book of Genesis and St. Matthew's Gospel, and answered very satisfactorily indeed. Their pronunciation was correct, and their mode of reading intelligent; while their answering showed that great pains had been taken in explaining the meaning of the lessons to them. Examples in proportion and simple multiplication were worked correctly and quickly by the two divisions of the class; and their answering in the geography of Ceylon was very satisfactory.

Two boys in Class II. read English very nicely, and the whole class passed a satisfactory examination in Balaprabodhana. The boys of Class III. read and translated short English

CEYLON.

sentences correctly, and their acquaintance with the meaning of their Singhalese lessons was very creditable.

The master having been only a few months at work, the state of the school did him great credit; and there was a general appearance of intelligence and quickness among the boys, which one does not often witness.

PITIYAGEDARA.

On list, 25; average attendance, 15; Class I. 2; II. 3; III. 23.

The boys in Classes I. and II. read pretty well in different portions of Book II., and worked examples, the former in compound multiplication, the latter in simple addition. The rest are in various stages of progress in Book I.

There seems to be great indifference on the part of people in this district. Schools have been tried in different parts of it, but in none has it been possible to secure a regular attendance.

NORTHERN PROVINCE.

Extract of Letter from Rev. J. Walton.

"The enclosed printed circular will put the Commission in possession of full information as to certain changes which came into operation in our Central School at the beginning of the year.

"I am now in a position to state some of the probable results.

"In the Central School there are now 43 boys, who pay a monthly fee of 1*s.* 6*d.*; and 44 boys who pay a fee of 1*s.* In the Preparatory School connected with the above, there are 20 boys, who pay a monthly fee of 6*d.*

"These fees may seem small in amount, and are, indeed, by no means what the pupils should pay, and must eventually pay; but it should be considered that the same boys were paying 6*d.* and 3*d.* respectively, and a proportion of them receiving a gratuitous education, up to January of this year. In order to estimate the position of this school, it must be borne in mind that the Roman Catholic school in the neighbourhood, as I am informed, demands no fees at all.

"As to the present effect of these changes, the improvement in the school, with reference to regularity of attendance and application, is very encouraging. It is worthy of remark, that I have had but four applications for free admission.

"This scale of fees has excluded a class of boys who, I have long thought, ought not to seek an English education. I am afraid that few desire English except as a qualification for a Government appointment, and the former low scale of fees attracted a large number of boys from those manual occupations which no lad follows here who has got a smattering of English.

"In this part of the island I decidedly think that the time has come when some restriction should be placed upon the facilities for obtaining an education in English; unless, indeed, Government is prepared to employ a moiety of the population in the public service, and pension or deport the rest. Some of our former pupils are in Madras, Cochin, and even at the gold diggings in Australia and California; others of them are contemplating offering themselves for employment in the territory recently acquired in Burmah.

"A few superior English schools, protected as in England, by a proper scale of fees, may be necessary; and if these are efficiently conducted, they will always be filled by an industrious race of scholars who will do credit to their teachers, and who will find, when they have completed their course, that their education has not unfitted them for obtaining a living."

(*Circular.*) WESLEYAN JAFFNA MISSION.

An impression having gone abroad that this mission is about to abolish its Central School, or at least discontinue therein the teaching and use of the English language, and many inquiries having been made on the subject, it seems a suitable occasion for making the following statement in this public manner, especially as we have determined on some important modifications of our plans.

I.—We have not only no intention of breaking up this establishment, but we hope to place it on a surer foundation, and raise it to a higher state of general efficiency.

II.—The mission will continue to give, on an improved system, a thorough English education in practical subjects. We shall teach our pupils to read, write, and speak the English language with facility and correctness, that object being secured by a select course of religious, historical, and scientific reading. Considerable attention will be paid to Indian history and geography. Arithmetic will be carefully and thoroughly taught. The grammar and literature of the Tamil language will form a prominent part of the curriculum.

III.—The Rev. W. Barber is the principal. The whole of his time is devoted to the interests of the school and regular class tuition. He is assisted by a staff of six teachers.

IV.—The expenditure of this department is very considerable, and has hitherto been borne chiefly by mission funds. Henceforth, they who seek the advantages of the school, will be required to contribute a small proportion of the cost of its maintenance.

V.—We think the universal desire for English requires to be abated. It is undeniable that many have received an English education to whom it has proved a calamity rather than a boon. Mechanical trades, agriculture, and manual labour of every kind are eschewed by all who have been pupils in our English schools. The Government offices and the three missions can entertain the services of but a limited number of young men who graduate in these establishments. The mass remain without employment.

VI.—The following arrangements, to come into operation from January 1st, 1856, whilst they are extremely favourable to the public, considering the superior education we give, will, it is thought, tend to restrict, in some measure, English education to those to whom, from their position and circumstances, it may prove a good, and not an evil.

1. The first and second classes will be required to pay 4*s.* 6*d.* per quarter; the other classes 3*s.* per quarter. These fees must be paid in advance. The pupils must find their own stationery and writing materials as heretofore.

2. The mission will henceforth provide all maps and school books required by the pupils during the whole course of study, and for the use of these books an entrance fee of 5*s.* will be charged. This payment may be made in equal instalments, provided the whole amount be paid within the first year.

As the term of study of the present first and second classes will be limited, and as they have been at the expense of providing themselves with several books, it is intended to make, in their case, a smaller charge. The first class will pay 1*s.* 8*d.*, and the second class 2*s.* 6*d.* New pupils, entering either of these classes, will be charged the full amount of the fee.

3. The mission reserves to itself the privilege of admitting free pupils in particular cases. No boys will be received into the Central School who are not able to read with tolerable ease in the New Testament and in the Second Book of Lessons. For those who do not reach this standard, a preparatory school will be opened, with a charge for eath pupil of 6*d.* per month.

VII.—We wish it to be distinctly understood by all that these schools are decidedly Christian, and that all our arrangements will be made with reference to the moral and religious improvement of those young persons who may be committed to our care.

JOHN WALTON,
General Superintendent.

Jaffna, 5th Dec. 1855.

STATISTICS.

CENTRAL SCHOOL.

43 boys paying 4*s.* 6*d.* per quarter.
44 do. 3*s.* 0*d.* do.
2 free boys.

89 Total number of boys.

PREPARATORY SCHOOL.

20 boys paying 6*d.* per month.
1 free boy.

21 Total number of boys.

March 10th, 1856.

Extract of Letter from REV. R. BREN.

"We would further add:—

"1.—That in consequence of large numbers of youths who were educated in English, and are now unable to obtain employment, and the cultivation of tobacco, &c. having greatly increased in the province, the parents seem less disposed to send their children to learn than they were formerly, when they saw the advantages obtained by those who studied English, and obtained situations with large salaries.

"2.—Although the circumstances of the time and people required some change, the Church Mission has not deemed it advisable to relinquish all English education, but to restrict it within certain limits. The seminary at Chundicully, which was formerly a boarding establishment, and as such objectionable to some of the higher classes, on account of caste distinction, has been transformed into a day-school, but without any change in the studies. This enables all parties to avail themselves of the privileges of the school, as those who come from a distance, and are unable to return home, can find their own board wherever they please. The curriculum of study is calculated to fit the boys for any useful situation in life which they may be called to occupy. Inasmuch as we consider this school sufficient to supply all with an English education to whom it would probably prove of any avail, we have discontinued the other English schools which were supported by the mission, for boys who learned in English schools in the villages seldom prosecuted their studies long enough to obtain such a knowledge of the language as would prove beneficial to them.

CEYLON.

"3.—On the other hand, more attention has been given to the vernacular. A training institution has been opened for masters, where 20 youths,—the funds allowed by the mission being sufficient only to support that number,—are instructed in Tamil literature, grammar, geography, arithmetic, history, and the Scriptures. The youths are taken from all parts of the country, and it is hoped they will be the means of raising the standard of education in the vernacular. Those educated in English were both unwilling, and, in most cases, incompetent to teach Tamil.

"4.—The mission has reduced the number of vernacular schools, with a view of concentrating their strength, and raising the standard of the schools. Formerly there were schools in almost every village; but the children learned simply to read, and one or two small catechisms. Now geography, arithmetic, quotations from Tamil classics, grammar, &c., &c., have been added to the lessons formerly taught. The schools are so placed that all can attend who wish, and the missionary can more frequently visit and examine them.

"5.—One of the society's missionaries now gives his whole time to the superintendence of the training institution and schools."

ROBT. BREN,
Jaffna, Feb., 1856. Supt. Educational Dept., C. M. S.

GOVERNMENT SCHOOLS throughout CEYLON.

Schools.	Teachers.	Annual Salary.	Annual Rent.
		£ s.	£ s.
THE COLOMBO ACADEMY	Principal - - Rev. B. Boake (on leave).	—	,,
	(Acting) - - Rev. A. Kessen - -	250 0	,,
	Second teacher - E. C. Caldwell, Esq. - -	370 0	,,
	Third master - Mr. A. De Zoysa - -	48 0	,,
COLOMBO CENTRAL SCHOOL	Principal of the Central School of Colombo and Native Normal Institution - Rev. A. Kessen -	500 0	54 0
	1st Assist. teacher - Mr. D. Gogerly - - -	130 0	,,
	2d teacher - - ,, J. Silva - - -	36 0	,,
	3d Assist. teacher - ,, J. Jansz - - -	36 0	,,
NATIVE NORMAL INSTITUTION.	Head teacher - ,, J. Perera - - -	84 0	,,
	Assistant do. - ,, Siman Silva - -	18 0	,,
	18 Native Normal Students at 6*l.* each - -	108 0	,,
Elementary Schools.			
St. Thomas - -	Head teacher - Mr. J. R. Blake - - -	100 0	48 0
	1st Assistant do. - ,, D. S. Perera - -	42 0	,,
	2d do. - - ,, J. C. Misso - -	36 0	,,
Colombo Boys - -	Head teacher - ,, J. W. Spaar - -	84 0	36 0
	Assistant do. - ,, R. Elders - -	42 0	,,
Grand Pass - -	Head teacher - ,, J. G. Andriesen - -	100 0	42 0
	Assistant do. - ,, E. Ludekens - -	48 0	,,
Slave Island - -	Head teacher - ,, M. Perera - -	100 0	24 0
	Assistant do. - ,, Don Hendrick - -	18 0	,,
Caltura - -	Head teacher - ,, J. Garth - -	84 0	,,
	Assistant do. - ,, J. de Hoedt - -	24 0	,,
Negombo - - -	Head teacher - ,, F. B. Nicholas - -	72 0	24 0
Galle - - -	Head teacher - ,, J. E. Anthonisz - -	84 0	36 0
	Assistant do. - ,, J. R. Anthonisz - -	36 0	,,
Matura - -	Head teacher - ,, James Barton - -	78 0	,,
	Assistant do. - ,, G. H. Ernst - -	24 0	,,
Kandy - - -	Additional teacher Rev. E. Labrooy - -	120 0	,,
	Head teacher - Mr. R. P. Jansz - -	84 0	,,
Mixed Schools.			
Wellicadde Gaol - -	S. & E. teacher - ,, Don Louis - -	24 0	,,
	Assistant do. - ,, A. Perera - - -	10 16	,,
	Tamil do. - - ,, Asarawade Pulle - -	12 0	,,
Marandahn - -	Head teacher - ,, C. D. Anthonisz - -	42 0	9 0
	Assistant do. - ,, L. D. Abrew - -	18 0	,,
Colpetty - - -	Head teacher - ,, H. Perera - - -	54 0	18 0
	Monitor. —	—	,,
Kandane - -	Teacher - - ,, J. F. Poulier - -	42 0	,,
Pantura - - -	Head teacher - ,, W. Van Cuylenberg -	60 0	,,
	Assistant do. - ,, C. Pieris - - -	15 0	,,
Wadua - - -	Head teacher - ,, A. Parys - - -	42 0	,,
Avishawelle - -	Head teacher - ,, A. De Silva Jayawardene	48 0	,,
Kaigalle - - -	Head teacher - ,, E. H. Goondewille -	36 0	,,
Ratnapoora - -	Head teacher - ,, T. F. Labrooy - -	36 0	,,
Bentotte - - -	Head teacher - ,, D. De Silva Gooneratne -	48 0	,,
	Assistant do. - ,, Don Abraham Wettahatchy	12 0	,,

Schools.	Teachers.	Annual Salary.	Annual Rent.
		£ s.	£ s.
Hickodde	Teacher - Mr. J. M. Anthonisz	36 0	18 0
Galle	Head teacher - „ J. E. Jansz	48 0	30 0
	1st Assistant do. - „ W. Anwardt	18 0	„
	2d do. - „ D. S. Wickerema	18 0	„
	3d do. - „ S. de Silva	18 0	„
	Monitor - „ H. de Silva	3 0	„
Belligam	Teacher - „ A. de Silva, Mohandiram	36 0	7 4
Trincomalie	Teacher - „ G. Philips	48 0	9 0
	Assistant - „ Mylawagenem	18 0	„
Nillewelly	Teacher - „ J. Crowther	48 0	„
Moodoor	Teacher - „ J. Anderson	48 0	„
Kandy	Head teacher - „ C. Fonseka	48 0	„
	Assistant do. - „ W. Wijeyekoon Kanangere	18 0	„
Kandy Industrial School	Teacher - „ J. Windle	60 0	„
	2d do. - „ J. Wickremesekere	18 0	„
Matelle	Teacher - „ J. M. Goonetilleke	48 0	„
Gampolla	Teacher - „ J. Pieris	48 0	„
Rickiligaskedde	Teacher - „ J. M. Rannesingha	48 0	„
Hadenia	Teacher - „ Wickremesekere	48 0	„
Pettiagadara	Teacher - „ J. A. Hopman	48 0	„
Nawellapitie	Teacher - „ M. Ashethesen	48 0	„
Bolapay	Teacher - „ W. D. S. Wicramasekere	48 0	„
Akurambodde	Teacher - „ C. Jayesinhe	36 0	„
Badulla	Teacher - „ G. De Silva	48 0	15 0
Nuwera Ellia	Teacher - „ A. Wijesekere	48 0	12 0
Calpentyn	Teacher - „ J. Vinton	36 0	„
Chilaw	Teacher - „ G. Pels	48 0	9 0
Putlam	Teacher - „ W. E. Lewis	36 0	„
Kornegalle	Teacher - „ D. A. Goonesekere	60 0	„
	Assistant teacher - „ W. Fonseka	18 0	„
Madampe	Teacher - „ F. Ondaatjie	48 0	„
Mullativoe	Teacher - „ T. Fry	24 0	„
Manaar	Teacher - „ De Hoedt	36 0	„
Female Superior Schools.			
Colombo Female Seminary.	Head teacher - Mrs. R. Elliott (on leave)	- -	24 0
	Miss Andree (acting)	100 0	„
	1st Assistant do. - Mrs. J. Lindsay	48 0	„
	Pupil mistress - „ L. Fermer	18 0	„
Colombo Girls' School	Head teacher - „ L. Palm	260 0	30 0
	1st Assistant - Miss E. Ball	12 0	„
	2d do. - „ M. Jansz	12 0	„
	3d do. - „ J. Kretzer	12 0	„
	Needlework mistress Mrs. Koelmeyer	24 0	„
Kandy Girls' School	Head teacher - Miss Houliston	200 0	48 0
	Assistant do. - Mrs. H. Jansz	36 0	„
Galle Girls' School	Head teacher - „ M. Braybrooke	200 0	21 0
	1st Assistant do. - Mr. G. H. Anthonisz	36 0	„
	2d Assistant do. - Mrs. G. H. Anthonisz	36 0	„
Female Mixed Schools.			
Borelle	Head teacher - Mrs. C. M. A. Louis	18 0	9 0
	Assistant do. - „ Wilhelmina Perera	12 0	„
Colpetty	Head teacher - Mr. J. Botejoe	18 0	18 0
	Needlework mistress Mrs. Franciscus	12 0	„
Pantura	Head teacher - „ S. VanCuylenberg	18 0	6 0
	Assistant ditto - Mr. Johanes Perera	7 4	„
Caltura	Joint teachers - Mrs. C. S. Leembruggen	18 0	„
	„ Dominga Pieris	18 0	„
Trincomalie Tamil	Head teacher - „ A. Mattheisz	24 0	1 16
	Monitor - Miss Harriet Hunter	6 0	„
Jaffna	Teacher - „ Jane Marthensz	24 0	„
Vernacular Female Schools.			
Wellewatte	Teacher - Mrs. Dona Welmina	12 0	„
	Assistant do. - „ D. De Alwis	7 4	„
Battakattra	Teacher - „ Christina	12 0	„
Kotanya	Teacher - „ L. Gomes	12 0	„
Desaster Caltura	Teacher - „ C. Silva	12 0	„
Widagame	Teacher - „ C. C. Carline	12 0	„
Deulpitiya	Teacher - „ Dona Bastiana	12 0	„

Schools.	Teachers.		Annual Salary.	Annual Rent.
Vernacular Boys' Schools.			£ s.	£ s.
Payagalla	Head teacher	Mr. Don Christian	18 0	1 16
	Assistant do.	„ O. F. D. Gooneratne	9 0	„
Barbaryn	Teacher	„ Don Anthony de Alwis	18 0	2 14
	Assistant do.	„ S. Perera	9 0	„
Hangwelle	Teacher	„ D. J. Ameresakera	18 0	„
Sedua	Teacher	„ Paul Silva	18 0	„
	Assistant do.	„ P. D. Cornelis	9 0	„
Dehewille	Teacher	„ Benjamin Stark	18 0	„
	Assistant do.	„ Johannes Stark	9 0	„
Wattella	Teacher	„ Alexander Rodrigo	18 0	„
Bandaragam	Teacher	„ Don Alexander	18 0	„
Mattacooly	Teacher	„ Arnolis Swaris	18 0	„
	Assistant do.	„ C. S. Wickremesakra	9 0	„
Millagria	Head teacher	„ Don Joseph	18 0	„
	Assistant do.	„ Istaphin Silva	9 0	„
Kohilewatte	Teacher	„ Constantin Perera	18 0	„
Slave Island	Head teacher	„ C. Alwis	18 0	9 0
	Assistant do.	„ J. Candappa	10 16	„
Dandogam	Head teacher	„ Don Bastian	18 0	„
	1st Assistant do.	„ Johannes Fernando	18 0	„
	2d Assistant do.	„ Savary Perera	9 0	„
Katane	Teacher	„ Joseph Fernando	18 0	„
Minuangodde	Teacher	„ Johannes Fernando 2d	18 0	„
Weweldenia	Teacher	„ Isaac Pieris	18 0	„
Dodangodde	Teacher	„ Johannes Dias	18 0	„
Horogolla	Teacher	„ Floris Perera	18 0	„
Peleyagodde	Teacher	„ Don Matheisz	18 0	„
	Additional	„ Don A. de Silva	18 0	„
Attadia	Teacher	„ Siman Fernando	18 0	„
Ballangodde	Teacher	„ Don Siman	18 0	„
Calany	Teacher	„ Don Jeronimus	18 0	„
Kottanya	Teacher	„ C. Dias	18 0	„
Hirrewelle	Teacher	„ Don Johannes	18 0	„
Calpentyn (Tamil)	Teacher	„ A. Caderewelle	13 10	„
Doomaldenia (Singhalese)	Teacher	„ Johannes Pieris	18 0	„
Akinmena	Teacher	„ J. Alwis	18 0	„
Dondra	Teacher	„ Lewis Peter Gerhard	18 0	„
Badulla	Teacher	„ Don Louis de Silva	18 0	„
Badulla (Tamil)	Teacher	„ S. Mailwaganem	18 0	„

LIST of GOVERNMENT SCHOOLS, showing their Classification, the average number of Pupils on the Lists, and the average number of Pupils in daily attendance.

	Number of Pupils. On List.	In daily attendance.
Superior Schools.		
Colombo Academy	56	
Colombo Central School	65	165
Native Normal Institution:		
Normal Students	22	
Pupils	22	
	165	165
Elementary Schools.		
St. Thomas	86	75
Colombo	60	60
Grand-Pass	76	70
Slave Island	50	48
Negombo	46	37
Galle	37	32
Matura	62	52
Kandy	86	72
Caltura	75	62
	578	508
Mixed Schools.		
Wellicadde Gaol—		
Singhalese	83	83
Tamil	84	80
Marandahn	52	51
Colpetty	41	38
Kandane	51	46
Pantura	50	48
Waduwa	32	26
Avisawelle	21	16
Ratnapoora	25	22
Kaigalle	18	14
Bentotte	57	43
Hickodde	18	12
Galle	137	106
Belligam	26	19
Trincomalie	62	44
Kandy	100	90
Matelle	30	24
Gampola	25	17
Rikiligaskadde	3	2
Madewelletenne	17	12
Pitiagedere	20	11
Nawelepitiye	32	28
Bolaepay	22	12
Akurambodde (Matelle)		
Badulla	29	18
Nuwera Ellia	43	34
Manaar	29	24
Mullativoe	44	22
Madampe	35	33

	Number of Pupils. On List.	In daily attendance.
Chilaw	12	5
Calpentyn	20	12
Putlam	7	5
Kurnegalle	38	20
Nillawally	26	26
Moodoor	50	30
	1339	1073
Female Superior Schools.		
Female Seminary	76	66
Colombo	102	87
Kandy	74	65
Galle	67	44
	319	262
Female Mixed Schools.		
Borella	46	29
Colpetty	31	24
Pantura	38	34
Caltura	45	25
Trincomalie (Tamil)	23	5
Jaffna	25	18
	208	135
Vernacular Female Schools.		
Wellewatte	22	12
Battacatra	22	12
Kottawa	35	17
Vidagamme	22	22
Desaster Caltura	24	20
Dewulpitiye	28	15
	153	98
Vernacular Boys' Schools.		
Attidia	36	23
Calany	41	23
Dehewelle	56	36
Kohillewatte	46	37
Mattacooly	52	32
Milagria	56	41
Paliagodde	62	42
Slave Island	47	35
Watelle	41	23
Dandogam	70	52
Seedua	55	44
Katane	50	34
Minuangodde	30	18
Hangwelle	29	16
Ovitigama	35	29
Weweldenia	25	13
Hiriwelle	36	19
Ballangodde	8	1
Kottawy	36	18
Bandaragama	60	40
Dodangodde	21	18
Payagalle	64	32
Barbaryn	72	53
Akmmene	20	5
Dondra	23	19
Badulla (Tamil)	32	23
Do. (Singhalese)	33	18
Doomaldeenia	48	35
Calpentyn (Tamil)	36	30
	1220	809
Jaffna Grant Schools.		
Church Mission - £150	245	133
American do. - £200	459	329
Wesleyan do. - £150	150	136
Roman Catholics - £150	0	0
	854	598
Recapitulation.		
3 Superior schools	165	155
9 Elementary schools	578	508
34 Mixed schools	1339	1073
4 Superior female schools	319	262
6 English female schools	208	135
6 Vernacular female schools	153	98
29 Vernacular boys' schools	1220	809
21 Jaffna grant schools	854	598
112	4836	3638

List of Jaffna Grant Schools.

Boys.	On List.	Average attendance.	On List.	Average attendance.
American Mission.				
Tallepally (English)	40	23		
Mallagam (English)	34	17		
Oodoopity (English)	9	6		
Batticotta	36	33		
Carrative	71	56		
Narantary	50	36		
Manapay (English)	30	25		
			270	196
Wesleyan Mission.				
Mission House boys' English school	133	121		
Point Pedro boys' school	17	15		
			150	136
Church Mission.				
Nellore boys' English day school	25	15		
Chundicully English day school	44	22		
Copay boys' school	66	27		
Chundicully Tamil day school	41	31		
			175	95
Roman Catholic Mission.				
Jaffna boys' school	0	0	0	0
			595	427

CEYLON

		On List.	Average attendance.	On List.	Average attendance.
	GIRLS.				
American Mission.					
Manapey (English)		45	31		
Batticotta		34	29		
Pandateripo		43	39		
Tellepalle (Tamil)		67	34		
				189	133
Wesleyan Mission.					
St. Paul's girls' school		0	0		
Church Mission.					
Copay girls' school		35	18		
Chundicully girls' school		35	20		
				70	38
Roman Catholic Mission.					
Jaffna girls' school		0	0		
				259	171

STATEMENT showing the Expenditure on account of the Educational Establishment in 1855.

	£	s.	d.
Fixed salaries	3,099	18	0¼
Provisional and temporary salaries	4,526	8	8
Allowances and contingencies	880	9	0
Rent of schoolhouses	531	7	6
Transport	71	10	0
Total expenditure	9,109	13	2¼
Deduct amount of school fees recovered	876	19	2¾
Net expenditure	£8,232	13	11½

Encl. 4. in No. 43.

Enclosure 4. in No. 43.

SIR, Colombo, April 9, 1856.

IN answer to your letter, No. 942, of the 7th instant, I have the honour to forward you a Report of the State of the Queen's House.

REPORT of the STATE of the QUEEN'S HOUSE, COLOMBO.

Main Building.—The repairs reported as necessary in the report of the Assistant Civil Engineer, dated 30th December 1854, are now being carried out, and upon their completion in the early part of the next month, the whole of the main building will be in a thorough state of repair.

The Right Wing, Kitchen, and Out Offices.—The repairs required as mentioned in the previous report are now almost completed, which will put these buildings into a thorough state of repair.

Stabling, &c.—The whole of these buildings were recently repaired, and are now in every respect in good order.

The gates and railings surrounding the whole of the grounds are now being thoroughly repaired.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. F. CHURCHILL,
Assistant Civil Engineer.

The Commissioners of Roads,
and Civil Engineer, Colombo.

Encl. 5. in No.

Enclosure 5. in No. 43.

SIR, Peradenia, April 17, 1856.

IN compliance with the directions contained in your letter, No. 941, of the 7th instant, I have the honour to state, that the Pavilion at Kandy is in good repair, with the exception of the roof, which was so far decayed that it was necessary to remove it.

The building is, however, perfectly habitable, as a temporary roof of cadjans and straw has been erected over it, pending the construction of a new tiled roof, for which materials are being collected.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. A. CALEY,
Ag. C. of R. and C. Engr.

The Commissioners of Roads,
and Civil Engineer, Colombo.

Enclosure 6. in No. 43.

REPORT of the PUBLIC FURNITURE of the QUEEN'S HOUSE, COLOMBO, and the PAVILION in KANDY.

1. The various articles of furniture purchased at different times under the authority of the Secretary of State, referred to in the report submitted last year by Mr. Bernard, have been maintained in good order, and in serviceable condition.

2. The quantity of furniture provided for the public apartments in these two principal residences of the Governor is sufficient, but it is composed of every variety of description, forming a motley mixture of very old Dutch and somewhat more modern patterns of various woods.

3. It would be very desirable to replace the furniture in the public apartments with some of more suitable pattern, and of modern design. This might be gradually effected, if a certain sum were annually granted for the purpose, until an uniform pattern is generally introduced. The actual cost of carrying out such an arrangement would be materially diminished by the amount which will be realized by the sale of the old furniture as it is gradually replaced.

4. By a vote of the Legislature in the Supplementary Supply Bill of last year, 300*l.* was granted for furnishing the bedrooms and private apartments of the Queen's House and Pavilion, while 200*l.* more have been provided in the Supply Bill of the present year for the same purpose. The former sum has been expended, and the latter is being gradually applied to this most desirable object. When accomplished, it will prove a very great accommodation, while it will obviate the excessive inconvenience which has hitherto been experienced by successive Governors, who on their first arrival in the colony have had a house with bare walls (the public reception rooms excepted) to go to.

5. Governors in future will be required to pay 10 per cent. per annum on so much of the 500*l.* thus voted under the sanction of the Secretary of State as may be actually laid out for their accommodation.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. T. LAYARD, Lt. Col.
A. D. C. Genl.

Deputy Commissary General's Office,
Colombo, May 2, 1856.

HONG KONG.

No. 44.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor Sir JOHN BOWRING to the Right Honourable H. LABOUCHERE, M.P.

(No. 82.)

Government Offices,
Victoria, Hong Kong, May 24, 1856.

SIR,

(Received August 6, 1856.)

I HAVE now the honour of forwarding to you the Blue Book for the Year 1855, and have no doubt you will share my satisfaction in reviewing the position and the prospects of the colony.

No. 1.
No. 2.

2. I need not refer to the various topics which the Colonial Secretary has made the subject of his interesting and comprehensive letter, except where some observation seems specially required.

3. The increase of trade in all its branches, though not recorded in custom house statistics, is a matter of notoriety, and evidenced by every indication of prosperity.

4. There is an improvement in the character of the Chinese population. Many of the natives, growing in wealth, have grown in respectability. There is more disposition than there has ever been among a better class of Chinese traders to settle on the island, while many great commercial houses in China, both British and American, have lately made Hong Kong their central point of establishment. The development of steam navigation, the rapid extension of trading relations with Australia and California, the increase of trade on the coasts of China, the opening of Siam, and the security which the flag of Great Britain offers against piratical attacks, are among the causes which have led to the happy results we are daily witnessing.

5. My exertions will be zealously directed to the securing for the colony an income from sources which shall in no respect interfere with its progressive prosperity, and which shall be adequate, without assistance from the Imperial

HONG KONG.

Treasury, for accomplishing the various objects of public improvements which are likely to be most substantially and permanently useful. These will of course be the subjects of special reports.

6. The topic of the public health occupies the constant attention of the Government. Exaggerated statements as to the mortality in the colony having been industriously circulated, and false reports prevailing as to the prevalence of fatal epidemics, I caused an investigation to take place, the result of which shows, that for the months of February, March and April the average mortality did not exceed 1 in 7000 per day.

7. I think it is desirable that there should be in the colony a re-distribution of duty, and a revision of salaries, and that the recommendations of the Colonial Secretary are entitled to much consideration; but the inquiries and investigations must naturally take a more distinct and special shape. It would, however, be useful to know that Her Majesty's Government looks favourably on proposals for a readjustment of functions and their appropriate recompence.

8. I see no adequate cause for anticipating any such defalcation of the revenue as will be incompatible with the proper payment of officials and the progress and management of useful public works.

9. I would not venture, even supposing there were a chance of the proposal being entertained by Her Majesty's Government, to support the recommendation from the Colonial Secretary of a differential duty in favour of teas shipped for England from Hong Kong. In my view the whole system of differential duties is obnoxious in principle, fraudulent in practice, and disappointing in result. Nor can I suppose that Parliament would ever sanction so retrogressive and unsound a measure, especially in the case of a self-supporting colony, not producing in itself a single chest of the article in question.

I have, &c.

(Signed) JOHN BOWRING.

The Right Hon. Henry Labouchere, M.P.,
&c. &c. &c.

Encl. in No. 44.

Enclosure in No. 44.

(No. 289.)

Colonial Secretary's Office, Victoria,
Hong Kong, April 25, 1856.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Excellency the Blue Book for the year 1855, the perusal of which will I believe fairly prove that the past year has been the most promising since the foundation of the colony.

2. The two points most worthy of notice are, the increase of the population and the favourable result of the land sales.

3. Within the last eight years the population has been more than trebled, while an increase of nearly 17,000 is shown over the returns of 1854. The number as given in the Registrar General's Comparative Table is, for the past year, 72,607; for the previous year, 1854, 55,715; and for 1848, 23,998.

4. The state, still somewhat unsettled, of the neighbouring province, is of course the moving cause of this influx of people, and it is useful to observe that during each of the past years the increase has been at about an equal rate.

5. One natural and necessary result of the increased population is the increase of trade, which is admitted on all sides, though the Government is unprepared to prove it by statistics, owing to the, in all other respects, wise and judicious absence of a custom house.

6. Several merchants have, however, during the past six months, remarked to me on the large trade (and this a ready money trade) springing up here, in a manner for which they are unable to account; and only yesterday one gentleman informed me, that but a short time back he sold an entire ship's cargo, to the value of some $30,000, in the course of a single morning.

7. The class of Chinese traders, notwithstanding, is comparatively low, and not wealthy, as evinced in part by the high rate of interest ruling in the colony, which may be quoted at 3 per cent. per mensem, or 36 per cent. per annum.

8. But now that the large European and American houses have, to some extent, fixed branch or head establishments here, as many have during 1855, it is possible that the richer native men of business may be induced to follow; and I think we may now begin to entertain a hope that such firms as the Chin-Chew

Hongs may settle here, and the project be realized which Sir John Davis did his utmost to encourage in the infancy of the colony, upwards of ten years ago.

9. The revenue of the colony may next call for remark, and of this the most important item comes under the head of rent from leased lands. The Surveyor General in his report, as will be seen, puts this down as 16,229*l.*, while the Treasurer shows the collection during the year to have been but 11,144*l.* 17*s.* 11½*d.*

10. I have examined into this discrepancy, and find that the Surveyor General must have fallen into some error, for he has overstated the rent roll, which stood at the close of 1855, and still stands, at exactly 14,779*l.* 3*s.* 7*d.*, while the difference between this sum and the amount actually collected may be probably accounted for by casual arrears, and the collection of a portion of the rents between Christmas of 1854 and the new year of 1855, the same strict measures for the collection of a correspondent sum not having been taken during the final week of 1855.

11. The net increase on the rent roll during the year, subtracting reductions, &c., is 3,528*l.* 17*s.* 5½*d.*

12. Akin to the rent roll revenue, as connected with land, is the large amount received as premium on the various lots exposed to public auction. This has been most remarkable in 1855. The number of land sales was nine, and the premia realized amounted to 15,720*l.* 16*s.* 8*d.*, nearly half of which was derived from six valuable marine lots sold on 16th November last.

13. Of the other items of revenue those requiring any special notice are the opium and spirit licences, which show, especially the former, some increase, owing to the increased population, and to the same cause may be traced a similar increase under police assessment and fees of office.

14. On expenditure little comment is required, but it must not be lost sight of, that while the revenue rises with the colony so must the expenses, and the increase under this head of 6,178*l.* 11*s.* 1*d.* is attributable to public works, mainly, and to the necessarily increased police force, besides some additions to the now underhanded and always underpaid departments of government.

15. Of public works the most important is Government House, which was completed for your Excellency's reception on the first October last, and cost, up to 31st December 1855 the sum of 15,318*l.* 13*s.* 4*d.* Throughout the city of Victoria, culverts and side channels have been industriously proceeded with, and a great improvement in these respects has been effected. During the latter part of the year the erection of tanks for water for general purposes and in case of fire has engaged the Surveyor General.

16. I observe that the Surveyor General has noticed the irregular burials, and damage done to young trees by the Chinese, and I have to say that almost weekly I have called the attention of the Superintendent of Police to these offences, and I hope at last with some little effect; but these nuisances, with a large Chinese population and a very inefficient police, are most difficult of suppression.

17. The principal subjects into which the ordinances and notifications of the year have been connected are Chinese emigration, the administration of justice, and the registration of ships.

18 This port has become concerned largely in Chinese emigration, the returns showing that 14,683 left during the year, and this business is, I believe, on the increase. The emigration officer is useful and necessary, but it is to be hoped that as soon as circumstances permit the appointment will be transferred to an assistant harbour master, as a far more convenient and suitable arrangement.

19. The ordinances for the administration of justice are adaptations of the law reforms introduced into the mother country.

20. The imperial act to amend and consolidate the laws regulating merchant ships and seamen, known as "The Merchant Shipping Act, 1854," came into operation on 1st May 1855, and some notifications regarding it have been issued in the Gazette, while an ordinance, No. 4. of 1855, establishes a registry for colonial vessels.

21. Of the councils it is only necessary to say that their reconstruction is under the consideration of Her Majesty's Government.

HONG KONG.

22. The police is notoriously inefficient for the purpose of prevention of offences and nuisances, but seems to answer its end as regards the protection of property by night. The whole system is under revision.

23. On the currency your Excellency has already addressed the Secretary of State.

24. Sir John Davis, in noticing the Blue Book for 1845, attached some importance to the establishment of foreign consulates here, and it will be seen that all the commercial countries of importance are now represented by consuls or other consular officers at this port.

25. I have already remarked on the absence of a custom house, and on the consequent impossibility of furnishing accurate returns of imports and exports, but the Harbour Master's tables will give valuable information on this head. It must not, however, be supposed that either the imports are consumed in the colony or the exports its production.

26. From the very nature of the island of Hong Kong little is to be said of its agriculture, and as little of its manufactures in the serious sense of the word. The fisheries are more noticeable, upwards of 1,100 boats belonging to the colony being engaged therein, and the outlying villages, such as Stanley and Aberdeen, being largely employed in drying and curing the produce.

27. Crime of the more serious kind is rare in comparison with the population, but larcenies and petty offences occupy much time before the magistrates court.

28. Piracy, the chief hindrance to the prosperity of the colony, has been repeatedly reported on to the Home Government, and it is to be earnestly hoped that some effective decision may be speedily arrived at.

29. The gaol is fortunately situated in a very healthy part of the town, but as the inhabitants of Victoria have increased so have the smaller classes of crimes, and consequently the prisoners in confinement. It will be absolutely necessary, and that without delay, to extend the gaol buildings, and provide further accommodation on the ground reserved southward of the present premises. The lengthened illness and subsequent death of the gaoler has caused some little confusion in this department, but improvement is now apparent.

30. From the shipping report another and very fair proof of the favourable position of the colony may be gathered. Whereas in 1854 the number of vessels anchored in the harbour was 1,100 with a tonnage of 443,554, in 1855 the returns show 1,736 vessels with an aggregate tonnage of 604,580. This gives a large increase of tonnage, and a comparatively large increase of ships, from which results, if statistics, or I should say if these statistics, are to be relied on, I would draw this inference, that the average of a ship being, in 1854, 55 tons over the average ship in 1855, the increase has been in the smaller vessels, that is, in those employed in the coasting trade, which trade is the life and strength of the colony.

31. On the subject of education, with special reference to the present and future provision of interpreters, your Excellency some time back appointed a commission of inquiry. This being a question so purely of personal and individual opinion has considerably embarrassed the commission in forming a conclusion, but I trust that a report may be shortly presented. In the meantime I may not be out of place in noting that negotiations are on foot for regaining the valuable assistance of Mr. Caldwell, whose secession from the service was attributable to no act of the Colonial Government.

32. In the month of November the Government, after full and mature reflection, published its project of a praya on the sea front of the city, and I remark this as one of the important events of the past year, and the introduction of a great future improvement and much benefit in many ways to the colony.

33. Another useful project was a new carriage road to Stanley, but this has been abandoned for the time, as the estimated outlay exceeded 6,000*l.*, a sum too large to be borne by the colony, now deprived, as it is this year for the first time, of all assistance by parliamentary grant.

34. There is one all important subject for which I may observe no provision seems to be made in the headings officially furnished for the compilation of the Blue Book, but which cannot be, and I think never has been, passed over in this document. I refer to the subject of health, which is introduced in the annual report of the colonial surgeon.

35. In that report I have not much to notice, save that the colonial surgeon seems to be unaware that much has been done during the past year to improve the sanitary condition of the city. Tanks to ensure a proper supply of water are nearly completed, Captain Cowper is engaged in a thorough revision of the sewerage and drainage, and an ordinance to regulate buildings and suppress nuisances has recently passed the legislative council.

36. Another ordinance on the subject of health has been referred to the Home Government, and this important matter is receiving every attention.

37. It is satisfactory to find that, notwithstanding the large increase of the population, the past year is pronounced very healthy for foreigners, and I do not find that the colonial surgeon states it to have been more fatal than its predecessors to the Chinese inhabitants; and on communication with the superintendent of police I am confirmed in my belief that there has been no special mortality beyond what increased population will account for; and, further, that this city is not considered by the Chinese more inimical to health than the towns of the main land.

38. The civil hospital should be enlarged, and measures to effect this are in course of adoption.

39. There is one point that I wish to take this special opportunity of bringing to your Excellency's notice. The numerical strength, construction, and several duties of the Government departments.

40. The Colonial Secretary's office should be relieved of various duties accidentally but unavoidably imposed upon it. The harbour master should act as registrar of shipping, and should perform the various details required in other places from the regular custom house officer, such as giving certificates of the landing of goods, &c. which have been required during the war, and are given by the colonial secretary on the oath of those applying.

41. The emigration business I have already suggested should go to an assistant harbour master, an officer who would relieve the harbour master of certain of his duties.

42. There seems to be some lack of knowledge in the harbour master's department of the shipping in the harbour and the particulars connected with them.

43. The Treasury and Audit Office should be relieved from all care of and control over the monies and financial concerns of the superintendency and consulates.

44. The shrievalty should be severed from the magistracy, and a different arrangement made for the performance of the duties of coroner.

45. The gaol staff requires reorganization, and the immediate head of that establishment should be of a higher class than gaoler, say one officer with the customary title of governor of the gaol, and emoluments according.

46. But these propositions and some other similar have, if I recollect rightly, been already made, and will receive every attention from your Excellency and the Home Government.

47. One subject more occurs to me, and that is the position of the servants of government as to pay and retiring pension.

48. With more inducement in the form of either, and especially the latter, I am of opinion that the departments might be better served.

49. The pay is a matter of colonial consideration, and a question here of ways and means, but the pension concerns the Imperial Government, and I remark that in all acts and regulations on the subject of superannuation the colonial service of Hong Kong, where the health of the government officers is comparatively exposed to much danger, and where the casualties among them have been so many and so fatal, is placed on no better footing than the service at home, in the possession of a bracing and temperate climate, surrounded by every luxury and every convenience for the prolongation and enjoyment of life.

50. I foresee in the course of the current year several changes in the various offices of government, and upon the future efficiency of the service; even the promise that this subject shall receive consideration from Her Majesty's Government will have a beneficial effect.

51. I would notice another point before concluding.

52. I have said that the expenses of the colony will rise with its prosperity; I add that the increased revenue will not suffice for the many improvements advisable.

HONG KONG.

53. The grant from parliament is no longer available, and it becomes a question whether the necessary improvements are to be set aside for years, or whether some means of carrying them out may not be devised.

54. In consideration of the many expenses incurred by the colony on account of the general trade with China, from which the mother country reaps so abundant a harvest, may we not justly receive some favour in compensation for the loss of the grant.

55. A suggestion was once made that the Home Government should impose a differential duty of, say, 1*d.* a pound on teas shipped for England from Hong Kong (see a letter written by Mr. J. R. Morrison under instructions from Captain Elliot, dated Macao, 28th June 1841). If this measure were adopted, the result needs no demonstration.

56. I take the liberty of bringing the point once more forward, and of submitting it to the consideration of your Excellency.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. T. MERCER,
Colonial Secretary.

Sir John Bowring, Knight, LL.D., Governor,
&c. &c. &c.

LABUAN.

LABUAN.

No. 45.

No. 45.

COPY of a DESPATCH from the OFFICER ADMINISTERING THE GOVERNMENT to the Right Hon. H. LABOUCHERE.

(No. 7.)

Government Offices, Labuan,
June 26, 1856.
(Received August 30, 1856.)

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to forward the Blue Book returns of this Settlement for the year 1855.

I regret that the revenue of the colony fell considerably short of the sum estimated at the beginning of the year: it was also less by 740*l.* 17*s.* 4*d.* than the sum collected in 1854. The deficiency is entirely attributable to the failure of the Eastern Archipelago Company to carry out the anticipation of its agents of exporting 15,000 tons of coal, 1,399 tons only having been shipped in the twelve months.

See Comparative Statement enclosed.

The expenditure of the settlement exhibits, as compared with that of 1854, a decrease of 891*l.* 1*s.* 0½*d.* The diminution will be found to be under the heads of public works and roads.

The population of the island has increased during the year by 380 persons, of whom, I am happy to say, 44 are females, a much larger proportion to the other sex than has hitherto been perceived amongst the immigrants.

Though mild forms of fever and of ague have been prevalent, and a more dangerous remittent fever is apt to attack new comers, the general health of the settlement has more than sustained the improved average of recent years. The total number of deaths in 1855 was 26, being 1 in 60 of the population, and of this number 6 only were from fever.

The returns of trade, I regret to state, show a falling off in the amount of exports to the very considerable sum of 7,442*l.* 17*s.* 2*d.*, as compared with the preceding year. This is to be accounted for by the greater prevalence of piracy on all sides of the settlement, but particularly to the northward and in the Sooloo seas, and to the bad government of the kingdom of Borneo, the rajahs of which country made, during the period under consideration, many successful attempts at monopolizing the produce of the various rivers, and exchanging it for British manufactures in the capital of Borneo, the trade of which town is now very considerable, and owes its existence entirely to the protection afforded to British interests by the neighbourhood of this colony.

A report that the settlement was about to be attacked by Sooloo, Illanun, and Balanini pirates, based upon the appearance of some boats from Sooloo

upon the coast to the north of us, was very generally credited in the month of July, and the island being entirely without fortifications or naval protection, and the barracks of the troops being at too great a distance, a stockade of posts and sand bags for the defence of the town was rapidly erected and armed with three guns, and other necessary precautions taken. The Sooloo boats, however, returned to their country without molesting us.

The excess of expenditure over receipts was provided for from the unspent balance of Parliamentary grants of former years.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HUGH LOW,
Administering the Government.

The Right Hon. H. Labouchere,
&c. &c. &c.

Enclosure in No. 45.

Encl. in No. 45.

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT of the ESTIMATED REVENUE of LABUAN for the Year 1855, and the REVENUE received in that year, as shown by the Accounts made up from 1st January to 31st December 1855.

	Estimated Revenue.			Revenue Received.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Land Sales:						
Premium on leases for the year—						
Town - -		—			—	
Country - -	25	2	11	34	7	3½
Ditto, in arrears—						
Town - -		—			—	
Country - -	9	17	1	2	10	0
Land Revenue:						
Quit rent for the year—						
Town - -		—			—	
Country - -	19	5	0	12	7	7½
Ditto, in arrears—						
Town - -		—			—	
Country - -	9	14	3	2	6	0½
Rent of land and mines to Eastern Archipelago Company - - - - -	240	0	0	120	0	0
Transfer and registration duties:						
Registration of grants - - -	-	-	-	0	8	4
Transfer of ditto - - -		—			—	
Auction Duties - - - -		—			—	
Licences, farmed out:						
Spirituous liquors - - -	450	0	0	450	0	0
Opium - - - -	850	0	0	850	0	0
Ganja - - - -	45	0	0	45	0	0
Postage - - - -	10	0	0	8	3	9
Fines, forfeitures, and fees of court:						
General Court - - - -	50	0	0	44	4	9½
Police - - - -	100	0	0	56	14	5½
Magistrates - - - - -	-	-	-	6	5	0
Fees of office - - - -		—			—	
Sale of Government property - - -	3	0	0	4	11	4½
Reimbursements in aid - - -	-	-	-	1	8	1½
Miscellaneous receipts - - - -	-	-	-	1	9	8
Special receipts:						
Royalty on Coals - - -	1,750	0	0	154	10	1½
Total - - £	3,562	0	0	1,794	6	7

LABUAN.

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT of the ESTIMATED EXPENDITURE of LABUAN for the Year 1855, and the ACTUAL EXPENDITURE of the Year, as taken from the Accounts made up from 1st January to 31st December 1855.

	Estimated Expenditure.			Actual Expenditure.		
Civil Establishments:	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Lieutenant Governor	1,045	0	0	978	6	8
Treasurer	640	0	0	598	6	8
Surveyor General	300	0	0	266	13	4
Surgeon	507	0	0	497	6	3
Harbour and Post Master	245	0	0	245	0	0
Police	300	0	0	305	16	4½
Judicial	55	0	0	—		
Allowances and General Office Contingencies	89	0	0	66	19	4
	3,181	0	0	2,958	8	7½
Pensions, Retired Allowances, and Gratuities	—			—		
Revenue Services	—			—		
Administration of Justice	—			1	13	4
Ecclesiastical	—			—		
Charitable Allowances	—			—		
Education	—			—		
Hospitals	20	0	0	0	11	6
Police and Gaols	143	0	0	86	12	10
Rent	—			—		
Transport	—			—		
Conveyance of Mails	4	0	0	1	11	5
Works and Buildings	174	0	0	158	0	4½
Roads, Streets, and Bridges	-	-	-	49	2	10½
Miscellaneous Services	40	0	0	39	17	3
Interest	—			—		
TOTAL £	3,562	0	0	3,295	18	2½

FALKLAND ISLANDS.

FALKLAND ISLANDS.

No. 46.

No. 46.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor MOORE to the Right Hon. Sir GEORGE GREY, Bart.

(No. 6.)

Government House, Stanley, Falkland Islands, January 16, 1856.

(Received 10 March 1856.)

SIR,

I HAVE the honour herewith to forward the Blue Book of this colony for the past year, together with a report addressed to me by the acting colonial secretary, Mr. Longden, showing the advantages which have already resulted to our merchant shipping from the foundation and maintenance of a settlement in these islands.

I have, &c.

(Signed) THOS. E. L. MOORE.

The Right Hon. Sir George Grey, Bart.,
&c. &c. &c.

Enclosure in No. 46.

REPORT from J. R. LONGDEN, Esq., Acting Secretary, to Governor MOORE.

Government Office, Stanley, Falkland Islands,
January 9, 1856.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to lay before your Excellency the Blue Book of this colony for the year 1855, and in compliance with your desire I take this opportunity of adding a few remarks, which may serve to show that the exertions and expense incurred by Her Majesty's Government in finding and maintaining this settlement have already produced the most beneficial results.

2. For many years the Falkland Islands have been continually pointed out as the only favourable station for the relief of our shipping in these seas, but it is only within the last few years (since the seat of Government was removed from Berkeley Sound to this harbour), that merchant vessels have in any number availed themselves of the advantages here offered them.

3. The settlement of Stanley was founded in 1844, and since that period has gradually increased, but the number of its inhabitants (which does not as yet reach 500), bears no comparison with the trade which is now carried on with the various ships which call from all parts of the world. The supplies and assistance thus collected in the settlement are annually the means of relieving many ships from very great distress, and in several cases of preserving the lives of passengers and crews. Lest this latter assertion should seem too bold, I adduce the following instances, which, during a continued residence of twelve years in the service of the Colonial Government, have fallen within my personal knowledge.

4. Eleven merchant vessels bound to various parts of the world (not intending to touch at these islands) have been totally wrecked on our shores, the crews of which, without the assistance they derived from the settlement, would soon have been abandoned to misery and starvation. The crews of two ships, which foundered at sea near Cape Horn, reached Stanley, after much suffering, in open boats. Two vessels arrived here on fire; and at least eight others have put in here in the last extremity of distress; some with all the crew sick; in other cases the ship so leaky that the crew were unable alone any longer to keep her free, and in other cases without provision or water. The majority of these vessels were English, and the aggregate number of their passengers and crews exceeded four hundred. I have not swollen out this list with the account of any coasting or sealing vessels, as their occupation inevitably leads them into danger, and would probably have been carried on whether the settlement existed or not. Nor have I included such cases as those of the "Henrietta" and "Pilgrim," two British ships which foundered off Cape Horn, and their crews (forty-three in number) were rescued, the one by a Danish the other by a Lubeck brig. In each case the rescued seamen outnumbered the crew of the foreign vessel, which was accordingly obliged to put back to this port and land them, neither vessel having on board provisions or water to carry them further.

5. I would also draw your Excellency's attention to the amount of property saved from absolute loss during the same period. In many cases the more valuable portions of the cargoes of ships which have arrived here and been unable to proceed on their voyage, as expensive machinery, manufactured goods, copper ore, &c., have been collected, warehoused, and subsequently reshipped to their original destination; while the amount shown by the various auction sales to have been realized in the colony for the benefit of owners and insurers (in cases where it was not practicable to forward the goods) has already exceeded twenty-one thousand pounds. Had there been no British settlement here the whole of this property must have been sacrificed; and if the establishment here were at any time withdrawn, the numerous secluded inlets and harbours round the shores would in all probability become the resort of men who might with impunity plunder every vessel wrecked or stranded in these parts.

7. Your Excellency's own experience of the navigation of these seas will, I am sure, enable you to appreciate to their full extent the advantages which a visit to this settlement offers to merchant vessels generally, especially to such as are deeply laden and short handed, and after a long voyage arrive in the neigh-

FALKLAND ISLANDS.

bourhood of Cape Horn leaky, and their crews exhausted with fatigue. Already in many such cases a short rest in this harbour has been the means of preserving both life and property.

8. The following table, extracted from a register that I have kept for the last twelve years, will show that shipmasters have latterly more and more frequented the port. The falling off in the last year or two is, I believe, attributable to the war, which has diverted so many steamers and sailing vessels from their former trade with Australia and the West Coast of America.

TABLE OF SHIPS which called at Stanley in the Twelve Years ending 1855.

Year.	Total number of Vessels.	Registered Tonnage in tons.	Number which were British.
1844	15	5,131	10
1845	21	6,121	16
1846	25	7,902	19
1847	24	6,316	5
1848	28	11,704	12
1849	29	9,005	12
1850	37	13,672	23
1851	50	17,538	32
1852	62	22,024	46
1853	60	25,186	42
1854	55	23,728	37
1855	53	19,793	40

9. Although the internal development of the colony can only be considered of importance so far as it conduces to the more efficient fulfilment of the objects originally contemplated in its establishment, your Excellency will probably view with interest the progress which has been made since your visit in 1848. The security for a constant supply of fresh meat which is now afforded by the long walls enclosing the land near Stanley, the cultivation of a considerable quantity of garden ground furnishing a tolerably constant supply of vegetables, and the construction of a reservoir for the more convenient watering of ships, are improvements of considerable importance The establishment of Cape Pembroke Lighthouse will of course aid materially any ship endeavouring by night or day to make the port, but its utility will have a wider range, and be appreciated by all ships passing the islands whether they call or not.

10. The great work which is still needed to meet the requirements of the port as a harbour of refuge is either the Patent Slip, which has been so often urged on the attention of Her Majesty's Government, or an adaptation of the natural facilities of the harbour to a dock, which would enable a ship at any time to be examined and her defects fully repaired without the delay, risk, and expense which must otherwise be encountered.

11. Although the foundation and maintenance of a settlement in these islands has cost a considerable sum, and must annually occasion a demand for some assistance from the British Treasury, the facts I have cited may serve to prove that the expenditure has not been barren of results already. And while the aid voted by Parliament has been annually diminished until it is now less than one half of the grant in former years, the benefits derived by our mercantile shipping have constantly augmented, and will probably continue to do so, for there is no other port within 1,000 miles of Stanley even now, which presents so many advantages with so few objections.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. R. LONGDEN,
Acting Colonial Secretary.

His Excellency Governor Moore,
&c. &c. &c.

PART VI.

MEDITERRANEAN POSSESSIONS.

MALTA.

No. 47.

PART VI.—MEDITERRANEAN POSSESSIONS.

MALTA.

No. 47.

COPY of DESPATCH from Governor Sir WILLIAM REID to Right Honourable H. LABOUCHERE.

(No. 45.)

Palace, Valetta, May 19, 1856.

(Received, May 26, 1856.)

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith the Blue Book of Malta for the Year 1855, together with my Report, and a copy of a statement by the Auditor General upon the revenue, expenditure, and financial condition of the island during that year.

I have, &c.,

(Signed) WILLIAM REID.

The Right Hon.
H. Labouchere, M.P.

EXTRACT of REPORT, to accompany the MALTA BLUE BOOK, 1855.

Trial by Jury.

Trial by jury in criminal cases was introduced in 1829, and I am told its success was for some time doubtful, but it is now working satisfactorily, and no doubt is producing a very beneficial, although indirect, result, by training the Maltese for the management of other public matters.

Free press.

Freedom in printing and publishing, granted in 1838, is now also, like trial by jury, producing a very beneficial result. If liberty be correctly defined as "security against wrong," the Maltese are in possession of liberty, civil and political. With the press free, and with a portion of the Council elective, all wrongs can be and are exposed. There is security against the abuse of power. The success of the present form given to the government of Malta, like every other scheme of government, must mainly depend on the discretion shown in carrying it out, and on the forbearance of the people on whom privileges are conferred. Perhaps there is no truth so constantly enounced yet so frequently forgotten, as that free institutions, to be lasting, are the growth of time. In order that the wishes of the people may be more easily learnt, several consultative boards and committees were established in 1852–3, the senior members of which go out in rotation at the end of each year.

Quarantine.

The system of quarantine at Malta may now be said to be nearly the same as in England. The lazzaretto is maintained, and occasionally used, but all vexatious restrictions have ceased to be imposed. Steam navigation has rendered the execution of the old quarantine system impossible. Unfortunately, Mediterranean governments have so trained their people to dread contagion that they now find it very difficult to confine sanitary restrictions within reasonable limits.

Revenue.

At present in Malta there is neither debt nor surplus revenue, the surplus being all, or very nearly all, appropriated.

24th April 1856.

The annexed is a statement of the revenue from 1838, the period when new tariffs were introduced in consequence of the recommendation of the Commissioners of Inquiry. The average annual amount for the last eighteen years, in pounds sterling, is about equal to the number of the inhabitants.

REVIEW of the GROSS REVENUE of MALTA since the formation of the NEW TARIFFS at the end of the Year 1837.

YEARS.	Government Revenue.	Separate or Municipal Revenue.	TOTAL REVENUE.	REMARKS.
	£	£	£	
1838	111,352	8,000	119,352	During these seven years the separate receipts were not completely accounted for; the yearly rate of 8,000*l.* is therefore assumed, judging from the average of the next four years.
1839	106,114	8,000	114,114	
1840	96,928	8,000	104,928	
1841	121,499	8,000	129,499	
1842	120,852	8,000	128,852	
1843	109,638	8,000	117,638	
1844	116,471	8,000	124,471	
1845	102,304	7,579	109,883	The average of the separate receipts is 8,077*l.* for these four years.
1846	103,172	7,505	110,677	
1847	108,424	8,420	116,844	
1848	117,208	8,805	126,013	
1849	- -	- -	126,298	From the 1st January 1849 the separate receipts have been paid into the Government Treasury, and incorporated with the general revenues.
1850	- -	- -	129,293	
1851	- -	- -	133,080	
1852	- -	- -	127,729	
1853	- -	- -	123,305	
1854	- -	- -	123,772	
1855	- -	- -	126,738	
Average of the 18 years			£ 121,805	from every source.

Average of the three years —

1838–1840	£ 112,798
1841–1843	125,330
1844–1846	115,010
1847–1849	123,052
1850–1852	130,034
1853–1855	124,605

(Signed) WM. HY. THORNTON,
Auditor General.

Valetta, 24th April 1856.

The AUDITOR GENERAL'S STATEMENT of the Financial Condition of Malta, to accompany the Blue Book for the Year 1855.

The following view is offered of the gross revenue of Malta received during the five years immediately preceding the one to which the present statement relates:—

1850	£129,293	Yearly average, £127,436.
1851	133,080	
1852	127,728	
1853	123,305	
1854	123,771	
Fractions	2	

Revenue.

2. During the year 1855 the gross collection of revenue amounted to 126,738*l.*, being 698*l.* below the before stated average; but, as compared with the two years immediately preceding, a material improvement, or rather recovery, will be seen; still more so, if the details of collection be analysed, when it will be found that the year 1855 has scarcely benefited from extraordinary resources, unlike the other two years, which were largely aided in this way, as is shown in the following comparison:—

	1853.	1854.	1855.
Land sales	£1,879	£3,789	£371
Sale of Government property	270	2,205	183
Incidental receipts	51	1,022	76
	£2,200	£7,016	£630

MALTA.

3. Hence it may be affirmed that the receipts of the year have fully answered every reasonable expectation. The chief source of improvement is the customs, wherein, although the continued dearness of provisions has tended to diminish the introduction of consumable articles subject to import duty, the extended local traffic derived from the passage of troops and stores to and from the seat of the war, and from other operations connected with this state of affairs, has so far enriched the place as to have enabled the inhabitants, taken as a body, to purchase as large a quantity of those consumable articles as they had the means of procuring in cheap times with lesser earnings, but, taken individually, it will be found that many, who depend entirely on a scanty income, unvarying through seasons of cheapness and dearth, have been severe sufferers from the long-continued high prices. These have been brought on, not only by those causes which influence the surrounding countries generally, but are particularly aggravated here by the demands of an increased garrison and number of shipping, and for the supply of the eastern army. Combinations for monopoly are by many believed to have enhanced the market prices, but, except in regard to the article of charcoal, I do not join in this belief. The tonnage dues have been increased by the greater number of vessels discharging coals for the use of the steamers, it being only on discharging merchandise that sailing vessels become subject to the dues.

4. Of the rents of the Government houses, other buildings and lands, the collection has been made without a single abatement. The judicial receipts have suffered a diminution, as compared with the collection of 1854, of 1,180*l.* How far this difference may depend on less business in the courts, or on new tables of fees in force from the 1st August 1855, cannot be shown.

Expenditure.

5. In the general estimate of expenditure, prepared in 1854, for the service of the year 1855, a provision of 126,642*l.* 2*s.* 11*d.* was made. To this was added a balance of 16,930*l.* 11*s.* 2*d.* remaining unexpended at the end of 1854 from the provision of previous estimates, and in the course of 1855 supplemental appropriations were made to the amount of 2,236*l.* 3*s.* 5¾*d.* In all, 145,808*l.* 17*s.* 6¾*d.* at disposal for expenditure.

6. The total sum actually disbursed within the year out of this provision was 127,004*l.* 17*s.* 2½*d.* (being 14,298*l.* 18*s.* 7½*d.* less than the outlay of the previous year), 2,590*l.* 9*s.* 1¾*d.* have been written off as unavailed of or saved, and 16,213*l.* 11*s.* 2½*d.* remain for future outlay.

7. The year closed with the following state and liabilities of the inland treasury:—

State of the treasury of Malta, 31st December 1855.

	£	*s.*	*d.*	£	*s.*	*d.*
Effects - - cash -	81,918	1	0½	84,713	3	1
Effects - - advances -	2,795	2	0½			
Debts - - deposits -	-	-	-	54,710	12	5½
Surplus capital -				30,002	10	7½
Liabilities:—						
The revenue of December, reserved to meet the expenditure of that month payable in January 1855 - -	9,525	0	9½			
The portion of expenditure remaining undefrayed, as already stated -	16,213	11	2½			
				25,738	12	0
Available surplus				£4,263	18	7½

Audit Office, Valetta,
April 12, 1856.

(Signed) W. H. Thornton,
Auditor General.

IONIAN ISLANDS.

No. 48.

No. 48.

COPY of a DESPATCH from the Right Hon. Sir JOHN YOUNG, Bart., to the Right Hon. H. LABOUCHERE, M.P.

(No. 37.)

Corfu, July 1, 1856.

SIR, (Received July 23, 1856.)

I HAVE the honor to forward to you, herewith enclosed, the annual financial statement, called the Blue Book for the year 1855, together with the accompanying report.

I have, &c.

(Signed) JOHN YOUNG.

The Right Hon. Henry Labouchere, M.P.
&c. &c. &c.

REPORT on the BLUE BOOK for the financial year ending the 31st January 1856.

REVENUE.

The gross amount of the revenue in 1854 was		£137,978
„ „	in 1855 „	127,471
Showing a decrease in 1855 of	-	£ 10,507

The items of general revenue showing a decrease are—

Customs—Export duty on oil (olive).
„ Import duty on tobacco.
„ „ grain.
Stamp duties.
Gunpowder monopoly.
Health office dues.
Judicial tariffs.
Mortgage, &c. dues.
Printing office receipts.
Freights of Government steam packets.
Public instruction.

The customs shows a decrease of 1,378*l.*, in consequence of the continued high price of provisions, and the distress felt in the islands by the failure of crops.

The export duty on oil shows a diminution of 12,121*l.*, in consequence of short crops.

The loss on the import duty on tobacco, 475*l.*, arises apparently from diminished consumption, in consequence of the prevailing distress.

That on grain imported, viz., 1,736*l.*, by a great increase in price in consequence of the war with Russia having closed the ports of the Black Sea.

The decrease of revenue in the stamp duties, 1,294*l.*, is to be attributed to the prevailing distress of the population from failure of crops; and that arising from the sale of gunpowder, 20*l.*, to the same reason.

The loss in health office dues, 154*l.*, is mainly owing to the cholera which prevailed here last autumn, and which prevented vessels from arriving here, as they would then have been subjected, in foreign parts, to quarantine upon leaving.

IONIAN ISLANDS.

The decrease in judicial police dues, 118*l.*, may be likewise attributed to the same cause, as less passports were issued and fewer legal processes served in consequence of the prevailing epidemic.

The items mortgage dues and printing office receipts, which show a collective decrease of 73*l.*, is a casualty arising from a similar cause.

The decrease in the amount of freights received by Government steam packets, 574*l.*, is in consequence of the Ionian steamers having nearly ceased to run between the islands.

And that under the head of public instruction, 362*l.*, arises from a smaller number of students, and the closing of the schools during the cholera.

The items of general revenue showing an increase are as follows:—

Export duty on currants.
„ island wines.
Import duty, foreign wines and spirits.
Post office dues.
Executive police fees.
Custom house warehouse rents, &c.
Miscellaneous.

The increase of currant duties, amounting to 4,409*l.*, is to be attributed to a partial abatement of the blight in Cephalonia, and an improvement in the price.

An increase of 221*l.* in the export duty received on island wines is in consequence of greater exportation having been made this year to Italian ports in the Adriatic.

The increase of 329*l.* observable in the item import duties on foreign wines and spirits, was in consequence of an augmentation of garrison having caused greater consumption.

That in the items post office dues and executive police fees, amounting together to 195*l.*, may be attributed to an increased letter correspondence, and greater attention on the part of the police in levying its fees.

The increase in the amount of warehouse rents (dogana), 72*l.*, is in consequence of greater deposits having been made this year than last in the Porto Franco stores.

Under the head of miscellaneous an increase of 2,572*l.* appears. This increase is in consequence of a deduction of ten per cent. from salaries in aid of revenue, produce of labour at the Penitentiary, and the sale of Ionian packet stores.

EXPENDITURE.

The expenditure for the year 1854 amounted to	£139,511
That of 1855 to - - - -	140,240
Showing a balance of -	733

The items under which an increased rate of expenditure appears this year over the last are these:

Legislative Assembly.
Health office.
Lighthouse and lazzaretto contingencies, and the contingent expenditure of the general and local governments.

The increase in the item Legislative Assembly, 2,441*l.*, was caused by the expenses attendant on a meeting of Parliament having been called to complete the session prorogued in 1854.

The 113*l.*, under the head of health office contingencies, &c., by the cholera, which broke out in the islands.

And the increased expenditure, 3,387*l.*, which appears in the item contingent expenditure of the general and local governments, was caused by the extinction by Government of litigated claims, interest on loans and deposits, and contingent expenses incurred in the islands in consequence of the cholera visitation.

The items in which a decrease appears are the following :—

Civil establishment.
Judicial establishment.
Education.
Rents of public offices.
Public works.
Packet service, coals, &c.
Collection of revenue, and purchase of stamped paper.
Post-office contingencies.
Executive police ditto, and those of the courts of justice.

The decrease of expenditure under the head of civil establishment is caused by the reduction of salaries and modifications in the senate, custom house, police, health office, and packet establishments, and lapsed pensions during the year, amounting together to 612*l.*

That under the head of judicial establishment, 545*l.*, from the cessation of seven additional judges, the district courts established in 1852 having been abolished.

The decrease under that of education, 685*l.*, may be accounted for by the modification made in the salaries of village schoolmasters in September 1854.

The decrease in the item rents of public offices, &c., 50*l.*, may be attributed to the transfer of the law courts in Zante to a house purchased by the Government.

That under the head of public works, 560*l.*, to the discontinuance of the steam dredger in the port of Zante.

The decrease in the item packet service, coals, repairs, &c., amounting to 1,788*l.*, to the cessation of traffic and the resale of stock of coals on hand.

That under the head of collection of revenue, and purchase of paper for stamps, 496*l.*, to less paper being purchased this year than last.

The decrease under the several heads of post office contingencies, executive police, and tribunal contingencies, to casualties for which no specific reason can be given.

Local Revenue.

The local revenue of the islands for the year 1854 amounted to 32,188*l.*, whereas that of 1855 was only 29,057*l.*, showing a decrease of 3,131*l.*

The items showing a decreased local revenue in the present year are the following :—

Land revenue.
Sale of lands and houses.
Arm licences.
Shop, tavern, and other licences.
Fines and confiscations.
Port duties.
Water rates, Corfu and Zante.
Export duty on Zante soap.
The seventh of general import duties and road imposts.
The decrease in the first item, 1,016*l.*, to failure of crops.
Sale of lands and houses, 20*l.*, to a casualty.

The decrease of 255*l.* in the items arms licences, shop, tavern, and other licences, to the non-renewal of these licences in consequence of prevailing distress.

That under the head of fines and confiscations, 88*l.*, to a casualty over which the Government has no control.

The decrease in the amount of port dues collected, 374*l.*, may be accounted for by many Ionian vessels having returned in 1854 to their national flag, in consequence of the disturbances in the East.

The 296*l.* decrease in the item water rates, Corfu and Zante, to the resumption of payment of rates by the Ordnance Department in Corfu, and arrears in 1854.

That under the head of export duty on Zante soap, 516*l.*, to there having been no olive crop in that island this year.

The decrease in that portion of the general revenue set aside for municipal purposes, viz., one seventh, which amounted to 144*l.*, is to be attributed to a falling off in the general receipt of customs duties, in continuation from last

IONIAN ISLANDS.

year, in consequence of general distress throughout the islands from failure of crops and cholera visitation.

The decrease under the head of roads imposts, amounting to 1,367*l.*, has been influenced by the exportation of less produce, the principal imposts being an ad valorem duty of 1½ per cent.

The items of local revenue showing an increased rate are these :—

Salines and salt monopoly.
Mole duty, Santa Maura.
Inter-island duty on native wines.
Import duty on cattle.
Export duty on Corfu valonea, &c.
Incidentals.

The increase of 727*l.* in the amount collected under the head of salines and salt monopoly was caused by greater exportation from Santa Maura.

The 8*l.* increase in the mole duty collected at Santa Maura may probably be attributed to the same cause.

The increase in the item inter-island duty on native wines, 69*l.*, is to be attributed to the partial failure of the vintage in Corfu, requiring for consumption supplies from the other islands.

The increase of 31*l.* in the import duty paid on cattle to the increase of garrison.

The 8*l.* increase of export duty on Corfu valonea to a casualty, and the increase of 103*l.* under head of incidentals to a temporary stoppage of 10 per cent. on salaries, in aid of revenue, operative from 1st July 1854.

Military Contribution.

The military contribution of 25,000*l.* per annum has been duly paid for 1855.

Judicial Establishment.

The reduction of seven judges, district courts having been abolished.

Ecclesiastical.

There has been no alteration made during the year in the ecclesiastical establishment.

Commerce.

The late war with Russia, continued failure of crops, and consequent distress of the population in general, has been the cause of an apparent lull in commercial operations in these states; but the prospect of a good currant harvest in 1856 has already made things look brighter, and its wonted activity no doubt will soon be resumed.

Agriculture.

It is to be hoped that considerable improvement will shortly be made in this most useful branch of industry, from the bias given in that direction to the Government and population generally by the advice and suggestion of his Excellency the Lord High Commissioner. Agricultural shows have been promoted at Corfu, and it is under contemplation to extend these benefits to the other islands; and plans have been submitted and entertained for draining and irrigating considerable tracts of land, which are now either totally unproductive or not near as productive as they should be. In both cases his Excellency has instituted careful examination, and visited the localities in person, sparing neither time nor labour in order to arrive at desirable results.

Population.

There appears to be a considerable increase of deaths over births during this year, in consequence of the cholera having broken out in Corfu, Cephalonia, and Zante during the autumn; but the decrease in the total number of inhabitants in the islands, as shown by the population return of this year and that of 1854, is only 1,413.

POPULATION.
In 1854, 241,493.
In 1855, 240,080.

EDWARD FREDERICK BARR,
Assistant Secretary to the Lord High Commissioner.

Palace, Corfu, June 20, 1856.

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